

Catch the scent of spring along the old incense road in the Western Hills.

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Perseverance and the passion for change push Zeng Wei all the way from a hotel cleaner to a senior music consultant.

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A Tsinghua University student is arrested after pouring sulphuric acid on two Asiatic Black Bears at Beijing Zoo.

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Rooftop Receives Ray of Sunshine

By Xiao Rong

China's hottest movie actress has landed a new role on the roof of the world as the Tibet Development Fund (TDF) philanthropic ambassador.

The star of *Rush Hour 2*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *The Road Home* in a press conference yesterday contributed an undisclosed amount of money she had raised to qualify as ambassador.

Zhang Ziyi's cash will go towards education projects aiding children of impoverished families to complete high school education and reduce illiteracy.

Founded in 1987, the Fund is the first Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to operate in Tibet, Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan. Zhang said it was her honor and duty to represent the Chinese NGO.

"I'll try my best to do some welfare work on behalf of TDF," said Zhang, "and to let more people give their concern and help to Tibet."

Zheng Ying, Fund secretary general, said Zhang as an ambassador will promote the unity among different Chinese nationalities and aid Tibet. The Fund focuses on education, health care, scientific development and environmental protection projects. A total 140 million yuan has been raised since its founding.



Zhang sports a white hada, the traditional Tibetan gift to honored guests given to her by TDF chairman Ngapo Ngawang Jigme, also vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)

Photo by Lucky

'Beijing and Me' Contest Wants to Hear from You

By Xiao Rong

Foreigners with a story to tell are invited to enter the "Beijing and Me" speech and essay contests.

For the essay contest, any interesting story, person or experience during your stay in Beijing can be the topic. Just jot down thoughts in your own words.

In Chinese.

The writing contest requires narration or prose written both in native tongue and in 2,000-5,000 Chinese characters. Deadline is April 20, 2002. The best articles will be published in a book and Beijing newspapers.

For the speech contest, applicants should send a cassette with 10 minutes of Chinese speaking. Forty candidates will be invited to Beijing for the speech contest June 22-28, to be aired live on Beijing Television Station.

Co-sponsored by the Information Office and the Foreign Affairs Office of Beijing Municipality, with cooperation by *Beijing Youth Daily*, the contest is open to all foreigners except overseas Chinese.

To register, you will need to assemble a personal resume, a photocopy of your passport, two personal photos (one passport-size 2-inch photo, another regular portrait photo) and personal contact information.

Send to: "Beijing and Me" Writing and Speech Competition, 9A Fuxing Road, Haidian District, Beijing Chinese (Beijing Gehua Cultural Development Group) 100038

Fax: 6858-2623

E-mail: bjandme@mail.21dn.com

For further information, contact Mr. Ren Shu or Ms. Yang Jingbo on 6851-3322 ext. 6657 or 6831

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Illegal Slaughter Feeds Foreign Fashion



Investigators expose trade in rare antelope wool

By Xiao Rong

Italian police have raided a Rome fashion boutique to seize shawls woven from the poached pelts of protected Tibetan antelopes, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) China Office announced this week.

After an undercover investigation by IFAW and Italian animal advocacy group Lega Anti Vivisezione (LAV), two illegal shahtoosh shawls – the equivalent of 10 dead antelopes – were seized.

"The investigation confirms that the highly illegal trade in shahtoosh from Tibetan antelope wool still exists in consumer countries," Grace Ge Gabriel, IFAW China Country Director, said to *Beijing Today*.

"If the market is not efficiently stopped, the poaching here in China will continue. So it's an international issue that concerns not only China, but also consumer countries."

Via e-mail, *Beijing Today* interviewed investigation participant Shibani Chopra, Endangered Species Campaign Officer in the IFAW (United Kingdom) office.

Covert trade difficult to track down

Gathering information on the availability of illegal shahtoosh shawls, she said, was not easy.

"The biggest hurdle I would say is the secrecy of the trade," said Chopra. "We know how to identify shahtoosh, but it's hard to get traders to trust us enough to 'deal' with us."

IFAW usually works with governments and shares information, she said. But with the Tibetan antelope, trade is difficult to uncover as it is so covert.

Entering the store, Chopra and a partner from LAV convinced boutique managers of their interest in shahtoosh shawls.

Chopra was then offered shawls for sale, but as the shawls were not available at that moment, the shoppers were asked to return a few days later.

The whole conversation was recorded on a concealed camera. A few days later, the shawls were shown to investigators and this footage was handed over to Italian authorities responsible for enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species (CITES).

Almost one month after the investigation, the authorities raided the boutique on December 6 and seized a blue and a red shawl, according to Chopra.

What's ironic, she said, was that the deal was done on "good faith". She had paid no deposit for the shawls.

"We just make sure that we don't break the law by ever offering money, because it's illegal to buy or sell shahtoosh," she said.

"Only when a customer asks for a shawl, really wants one, and is willing to pay the ridiculous price for it, is a shawl brought out," she told *Beijing Today*.

"They offered the shawls to me for US\$1,000 each shawl – and they were not even all that large, with no embroidery either," said Chopra.



This seized wool is ultrafine with a softer feel than cashmere or angora. "Shahtoosh" is Persian for "the king of wool"

Overseas demand drives poaching

"And remember – this was only one shop!" said Chopra. Known seizures in Italy so far totaled up to 500 kilos of raw shahtoosh wool in 1992 and 42 shawls in 1995.

The purpose of the investigations, she said, was to be able to prove that despite the Tibetan antelope being highly protected by law, shahtoosh shawls are available wherever the demand exists.

"IFAW aims to attack the trade from all angles – one of which is this demand," said Chopra.

"We wanted to prove that Tibetan antelope were still being slaughtered in China, shawls being woven in India – and then finally smuggled to Europe

and America where they are illegally sold."

IFAW has already conducted investigations in New Delhi, London and Rome earlier in 2001. In all three cities, IFAW investigators were offered illegal shawls for sale. They have footage of all three, says Chopra.

"The fact that IFAW was able to show that shahtoosh is available in London and Rome – proves that there is obviously a demand for shahtoosh amongst the rich and fashionable community," she said.

Since IFAW would like to continue this kind of investigation in other fashion capitals, Chopra said they couldn't disclose more details of their investigations, sometimes for safety reasons.

Neither could she provide the name of the boutique, as the case is still in court. Italian authorities had requested IFAW place an embargo on the story while they investigated other leads on the underground trade in Italy, said Chopra.

Collaboration needed between agencies

A conference to promote enforcement, anti-poaching and habitat protection of the ecologic environment of the Qinghai-Tibetan area will be opened with the help of CITES China Office soon in the first half of the year, revealed Gabriel.

Although the Chinese Government is already doing a great job to address the Tibetan antelope protection issue, the species is still extremely threatened, said Chopra.

IFAW is calling for a National Tibetan Antelope Conservation Plan to be developed by China through a multi-agency approach and international cooperation.

"The anti-poaching and enforcement efforts of the China and India governments must continue to be strengthened. We must also promote viable economic alternatives to shahtoosh, and ensure the demand for shahtoosh shawls is stopped," said IFAW President Fred O'Regan.

"Shahtoosh is not a shawl, it is a shroud," said Gabriel, "The protection of this species calls for international collaboration. Only if range states, producing and consumer countries work together, can the future of this beautiful and ancient species be ensured."

Key Facts:

- The Tibetan antelope, also known as the "chiru", inhabits primarily the remote plateaus of Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang

- For the past 20 years, Tibetan antelope have been illegally poached and slaughtered in the desolate plateaus of western China to supply a high profitable trade in "shahtoosh",

the fine, soft shawls made from their wool

- Tibetan antelope wool is smuggled through Nepal into the northern states of Jammu and Kashmir, where it is woven into shahtoosh shawls. The traditional markets for shahtoosh still exist within India, but the biggest allure for the illegal shahtoosh traders – and also the largest demand for the

shawls – comes from wealthy elites in western countries like the USA, UK, Italy and France

- A single shahtoosh shawl, made from three to five Tibetan antelopes, can fetch up to \$16,000 on the European market

- The Tibetan antelope population has dropped from several million at the turn of the 20th century to approximately

75,000 now. It is estimated poachers kill 20,000 Tibetan antelope each year and the species is in extreme danger

- Tibetan antelope have been protected under Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) since 1979, which prohibits any trade in their products

- China's Wildlife Law also

puts Tibetan antelope under Class I protection status. At the April 2000 CITES meeting, a resolution sponsored by China on the "Conservation of and Control of Trade in Tibetan Antelope" was approved

- A total \$80,000-\$100,000 has been donated by IFAW since 1999 to 15 forestry police stations in Qinghai, Tibet and Xinjiang

Information supplied by IFAW

Hukou Here to Stay

By Shan Jinliang

China's system of registering permanent residence (hukou) will continue to exist as a key part of the country's administration, said Bao Suixian, deputy director of the Bureau of Public Order under the Ministry of Public Security, on Monday.

The comments were made in

response to a report that China would abolish the hukou system. Contrary to the common idea that it is backward, the hukou system is universally used in Japan, Thailand and Sweden, and is run in the same way with the same content though the name may be different, Bao said.

Bao said that the system had

achieved a lot in social administration. It proves an individual's identity and outlines civil rights. The system can also provide information for national economic policy-making and social development, as well as employment issues.

He said that the ongoing reform on the permanent residence system

would not lead to its abolishment, but would meet the growing needs of the economy.

The senior official denies the charge that the system prevents the free flow of intellectuals, since Chinese people can move without restrictions.

"The accusation is made due to the many irrational functions

attached to the permanent residence system under the planned economy, such as education, medicine. One example is that a hukou is a must for being employed in some cities," he said, "and now we will take away the irrational factors attached to the system of permanent residence registration."

Information Kiosks Enlightens Capital

By Shan Jinliang

"It's so convenient to get information in Beijing," said a businessman at the information kiosk in Beijing Railway Station on Wednesday.

The information kiosk at the station, marking with "Information" is part of the Beijing city public information serving system launched recently. Since the trial run two years ago, 26 kiosks have been built at Beijing Railway Station, Beijing West Railway Station, Beijing Capital Airport and Dongcheng and Xicheng District communities. The information inquiries include static information such as postcodes, tourist site inquiries and public transport information, and other service information regarding business, job finding and medicine. A courier service will also be offered soon.

As one of the city's key information construction projects, the so-called "Beijing Guide" information system has absorbed the experience of developed countries and has become a must for the city's infrastructure.

The mass construction, operated by Beijing Guide City Information Technology Corporation, will push the overall number of kiosks up to 150-200 this year, and up to 600-800 in three years, becoming the auxiliary project for the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

The kiosk has proved popular with visitors to Beijing on account of its convenience, and reasonable pricing at 1-2 yuan for each piece of information. Even in the off-peak seasons, the kiosk at Beijing Railway Station receives more than 1,000 people each day, said Lu Juan, manager assistant of Beijing Guide City Information Technology at the station.

"We can also deal with inquiries from foreigners as our staff have mastered some basic English dialogues," said Lu, "to date, no information inquiry has gone unanswered, and we will keep up with the city's development by renew-



The computer image of the information kiosk to be jointly constructed by China Post and Beijing Guide Photo by Xiang Zhao



The information kiosk in Beijing Railway Station Photo by Chen Shuyi

ing the information regularly."

The corporation is planning to cooperate with the

news kiosks of China Post, providing information services to the whole city along with newspapers, added Lu.

Retail Giants Deny Accusations of Fraud

By Shan Jinliang

Beijing Guiyou Store, Fuxing Commercial City and Beijing Jinlun Corporation have applied recently for an administrative re-examination after being accused of defrauding consumers with fake discounts by the Beijing Price Bureau.

The Price Bureau holds that the stores artificially raised prices for a short period, only to lower them back to the original starting price and claiming they were offering a discount. Jinlun counters that discounts were made in relation to the original starting price, which does not constitute a fraud.

The bureau also claims that Jinlun cannot provide the trading invoices of a cashmere coat before it lowered the price, whereas Jinlun says it has presented invoices to

other stores and has a catalog of stock.

Stores argue that they use different criteria for identifying the original price of a commodity compared with the bureau. So far the departments concerned have not come to a clear conclusion on the concept of "original price".

The accusations of price fraud have affected the business of Jilun. Feng Yan, department manager of the store said that sales volume during the Spring Festival week fell by 25 percent, and that some consumers even questioned them over the report.

The governmental departments will make a formal response to the request for administrative re-examination by the three stores in 60 days.

Valentino Vs. Valentino

By Zhao Hongyi

Two Valentino-branded companies, one from Italy and the other from Holland, have brought a lawsuit against each other to court in Beijing, confusing both the judges and Chinese consumers.

Giovanni Valentino, the third generation of the Valentino family that created the brand sells Valentino-branded fashion through a Hong Kong based agent, Rui Yuan International Trading, to the Chinese mainland market.

Valentino Garavani, a Frenchman, once worked in the Italian Valentino family but now is a world famous fashion design master and owns his own Valentino Company, Valentino Global registered in Holland.

Netherlands-based Valentino Global believes the trademark of Valentino is theirs and is charging the Italian Giovanni Valentino and his Hong Kong agent with infringing the trademark and accusing them of unfair competition in China. The Dutch company is pursuing a public apology and compensation of 500,000 yuan (\$60,600).

The plaintiff insists that his registered trade mark of "V" graph, the English spelling of "Valentino" and Chinese translation "华伦天奴" are solely owned by his company. The defendant, together with his Hong Kong

agent, held a fashion show using the Valentino title in Beijing in 1997, and produced false global business figures and reports to Chinese consumers.

The plaintiff raised another suit against three department stores in Beijing, charging the latter with selling garments and fashions produced under the defendant's name. According to the Dutch company, all products were labeled with "GV" graphics, Giovanni Valentino brand and "卓凡尼华伦天奴" Chinese brand, confusing Chinese consumers with fake and similar brands and trade marks in sales promotions.

In the third case, the two defendants, Giovanni Valentino and his Hong Kong agent charge the Dutch company with using groundless stories and charges against their presence in China and seriously hampered their business in the Chinese market, asking for a stop of trademark infringement, public apology and compensation of 1 million yuan (\$121,212).

The court holds the view that the three cases involve history clarification, confirmation of patents and trademarks. The court insists that it has to obtain the arbitration result from China's patent & trademark administrative agency as well as results of similar cases from other countries before opening the session.

China Reduces AIDS Drug Prices

The government's recent price cuts on imported drugs for AIDS victims have substantially benefited those infected with the killer disease, Tuesday's *China Daily* quoted hospital sources as saying.

A patient needs to pay around 2,000 to 3,000 yuan (US\$240 to 361) per month, whereas the average monthly expenditure was over 10,000 yuan (\$1,204) before the price cuts, said a doctor in Beijing's You'an Hospital, who preferred to be named as just Wu.

Earlier this month, the State Development Planning Commission (SDPC) decided to cut the prices of three AIDS prevention drugs imported from the United States and Australia. The commission is authorized by the State Council to regulate pricing.

China imports more than a dozen kinds of AIDS drugs from other countries.

Apart from price cuts, Wu, who works in one of the best hospitals in the country for AIDS treatment,

called for the making of AIDS prevention drugs in China as soon as possible, so as to lessen the financial burden of patients.

He also noted that the WTO allows its members to make AIDS prevention medicines by copying other countries' production during the transitional period, though the drugs are still under the protection of Intellectual Property rights.

He cited Brazil and India as examples, where the average AIDS patient's medical expenditure is about \$50 per month, for the two countries produce their own AIDS drugs under the protection of WTO rules.

Chinese medical experts estimate that about 600,000 people in the country were infected with the fatal illness by the end of 2001, an increase of 60 to 70 percent annually over the last few years, according to figures from the Ministry of Health.

(Xinhua)

Student Visa Applications to be Processed in Australia

By Wang Ling

From today Chinese citizens wishing to apply for a visa to study in Australia will have to post their applications directly to Australia.

The Australian Embassy in Beijing will stop issuing student visas, which will shorten processing time from the previous 4-8 months to around 2 months.

An official from Australia embassy in Beijing stated that taking this new measure aims to improve the efficiency of processing applications for student visas, which have been increasing gradually in recent years.

During the past five years, Australia has been committed to attracting immigrants with skills in technology. More Chinese are studying English to prepare for studying in Australia. As reported by *Guangming Daily*, the Australian Embassy in Beijing processed 19,000 applications for student visas from Chinese from 2000 to 2001, an increase of 64% over the previous year.

Applications for student visas, including a fee of 290 Australian dollars should be posted to:

Offshore Processing Centre Department of Immigration and Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA), GPO Box 1393, Adelaide SA5001, Australia

Athens Mayor Exchanges Olympic Experience

By Xiao Rong

A club for Olympic-holding cities will be launched under the promotion of Mr. Dimitris L. Avramopoulos, mayor of Athens.

The mayor was on an official visit to Beijing for the exchange of Olympic preparatory experiences between China and Greece.

Mr. Avramopoulos revealed at the press conference held on Monday at the Greek Embassy in Beijing that he would discuss the promotion of the club during talks with Mr. Liu Qi, major of Beijing

"The club aims to develop better diplomatic relationships between cities by breaking national boundaries," said Mr. Avramopoulos.

Mr. Avramopoulos also emphasized that one of the main goals of the Athens Olympics is to promote the ancient Olympic spirit, combining it with modern Olympic principles.

The mayor expressed his heartfelt wishes to Beijing for holding the 2008 Olympics. "It's important to find a balance between time and money, as the next six years for Beijing is not so long. But I'm confident that Beijing will hold an excellent Olympics," he said.

Hotline Opened for English Learning

By Xiao Rong

A 24-hour hotline (010-6870 0606) for the "Beijingers Speak English" program opens today providing a pre-recorded voice service for the almost one million participants in the program.

Columns like "Notice", "Hotline Recommendation", "Message Box" and "English 100" will be included on the hotline.

The hotline is the first governmental social service of its kind in China that utilizes advanced phonetic identification technology. By speaking your demands or suggestions for the program on the phone, information can be obtained automatically.

HIV Carrier Starts National AIDS Awareness Promotion

By Shan Jinliang

Liu Ziliang, the first Chinese HIV-positive patient known to the world, started his first nationwide trip in Beijing yesterday to prompt AIDS awareness.

The 34-year-old Henan farmer became the first Chinese AIDS patient who dared to face the TV cameras in the first AIDS benefit concert in Beijing on December 1, the World AIDS Day.

Accompanied by Zhu Ming, who has donated 30,000 to 40,000 for Liu's cure from last December and president of Beijing Xinxing Hospital, Liu will set out on a cycling tour from Beijing to Shanghai as the first step of a campaign of "building a non-governmental defense line".

"We hope to arouse the awareness of AIDS prevention and remove the popular fear of the AIDS virus, taking the responsibility of safeguarding the health of every Chinese," said Zhu.

"The campaign will strengthen confidence regarding the lives of AIDS patients," said Liu.

With a slogan of "Joining hands in AIDS prevention", the 1,000-kilometer cycling trip will last from February 28 to March 10. Liu will tell his story of contracting HIV, and will educate people not to discriminate against AIDS patients. Furthermore, 10,000 brochures on AIDS prevention from the Ministry of Health will be distributed. The

arduous trip will cover visits to Tianjin, Jinan, Xuzhou, Nanjing, Wuxi, Suzhou and Shanghai.

"Touched by Liu's bravery and love for his family and society, I will stick the trip out to the end, even on foot," said Zhu. "Anyway, we have made extensive preparations, and will be greatly supported by the Central Youth League on the trip."

Heshang Village, where Liu lives, is coming to accept him, but surrounding villages and other areas of central Henan Province still consider AIDS patients as having done something terribly wrong. "We will start the second step of the campaign if the trip proves to be a success, and Liu's health permits," said Zhu.

Sohu Launches Sohu.net

By Yang Xiao

Sohu.com unveiled this Monday a new corporate clients service suite at www.sohu.net, providing cost-effective online resources and tools to Sohu corporate clients. The launch of corporate Sohu.net on this date coincides with the fourth anniversary of China's most visited consumer web site Sohu.com.

Sohu.net is a brand new platform combining a spectrum of business services that provide clients cost-effective and efficient ways to conduct business online and reach large audiences. Sohu.net services include: Internet marketing services, Sohu yellow pages, paid listings, and classified advertisements, Internet technology application services, domain name registration, a web hosting service, website construction and corporate e-mail.

Sohu has offered these services in the past year targeting small and medium enterprises. By the end of last November, over 1,000 enterprises had signed up for company listings at SOHU.

These clients represent a wide variety of service industries, such as educational services, immigration services, translation, Internet and computer services.

Meanwhile rival Sina.com also launched its Sina.net website the day before on Sunday. Although experts hold a conservative view on dotnet strategy, the two portals are both entertaining great hopes.

Zhongguancun Honors Top Talent

By Shan Jinliang

Ten outstanding entrepreneurs and ten founders in Zhongguancun Science Park have been chosen after a poll of 70,000 experts and members of the public taken from last November.

The well-known Legend founder Liu Chuanzhi and Ufsoft President Wang Wenjing are included in the two lists.

It is the first open selection by China's most famous science park to encourage the flourishing of entrepreneurship. The outstanding 20 will have their names carved into the black marble wall at the east gate of the park.

"The mass selection activity has brought together the joined efforts of the societies, associations, colleges and press concerned," said Liu Zhuhua, vice-mayor and director of the managing committee of the park. The selection, carried out every two years, is intended to increase competition within the park and spark the energy of all the businesses in the park, said Liu.

Volvo CEO Visits China

By Jiang Zhong

Hans-Olov Olsson, President and CEO of Volvo Car Corporation along with three of the company's vice presidents flew to China in a company plane for a six-day visit right after China's Spring Festival holidays. The visit by the Volvo Car Corporation's Executive delegation has shown their recognition of the achievements that Volvo Car China Operation have made during the last two years.

China is one of the significant markets for Volvo in Asia. Since Volvo Car Corporation established its representative office in Beijing on January 24, 1994, sales of Volvo cars and public awareness of the Volvo brand in China have grown steadily.

In 2001, Volvo sold more than 2,000 cars in China, doubling the figure of the year 2000.

LOGISTICS

Express Titans Share \$270B

Losses from the storage, charging, discharging and transportation of express are estimated at US\$270 billion in China. All foreign express operators can live in the \$270 billion market



Daniel Chen, UPS
Photos by Ogilvy



Eddy Chan, FedEx
Photo by Iceberg

By Yang Xiao

United Parcel Service (UPS) successfully prevented an economic storm last year by posting a \$4 billion profit, with China becoming its most promising market.

UPS overall fourth-quarter growth in Asia stood at 7% last year, and was dwarfed by a surge in China-linked exports, which jumped 40% year on year. UPS does not disclose tonnage or parcel volumes.

With China shining brightly, the big express operators like UPS, FedEx, DHL and TNT all have their sights fixed on the most promising market, especially after the country's entry to WTO. All express companies have been keeping a 20-40% growth rate for years, although investments have far exceeded profits.

"The market is so big that everyone can take a share," said Eddy Chan, FedEx Regional Vice-president, China and Mid-Pacific Region. Chan came to Beijing in 1999, when FedEx only had four direct flights per week, and operated in 144 cities. "Now we have 11 flights and 204 cities," added Chan. FedEx delivers parcels to recipients in North America and Asian countries within 24 hours.

UPS' direct flights came to China in 2001, and can land in Beijing and Shanghai.

95% of production time is wasted on storage, charging, discharging, and transportation, wasting 40% of total cost, according to some American experts in logistics. In China the loss is estimated at \$270 billion, creating an ample playing field for all foreign express operators to join in.

FedEx and UPS are rivals in the U.S. as well as in Beijing, having opened an office here in the 1980s. They have clashed in every field including marketing, business development and PR. European DHL and TNT sometimes also engage in minor skirmishes. Nevertheless, they benefit from opportunities from the government and its policies, while simultaneously facing risks.

Foreign investors could not establish



Employees from FedEx express station at Oriental Plaza

Photo by Chen Shuyi



express mail companies independently before China's entry to WTO. They had to launch joint ventures with Chinese state-owned or joint-stock companies. UPS and DHL chose Sino-Trans, while FedEx chose Tianjin-based logistics company Datian.

China will open all its service industry, including logistics, as set out in the WTO agreement. Foreign investors are permitted to establish holding companies independently, as the whole market opens. UPS or FedEx can thus enjoy a level playing field to challenge Chinese express companies.

Chan from FedEx offers conflicting information however. "Express services are different from other services. The Post Office Administration has the privilege of managing inland express business. Although we got permission from MOFTEC (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation) on managing international express business, we have to negotiate with the Post Office Administration for permission to do business on the Chinese mainland."

Now all express companies face limita-

tions imposed by the Post Office, and can only deal with international business. The sender and the recipient must live in different countries. Foreign express companies cannot deliver parcels from Beijing to Shanghai, or other similar domestic deliveries. The post office sub-company EMS monopolizes such business. "Negotiations are going smoothly. I believe in a near future we will get permission," said Chan.

While China's WTO entry is good news for foreign express operators, they will stick to their previous pace. Daniel Chen, UPS managing director, China, said during the interview, "we will keep to the same pace. WTO entry will not push us to develop our business in unknown areas and fields in China. We will choose mature areas and fields in which to develop, as before."

Chan from FedEx believes business in Beijing, as well as the Chinese mainland, is on the increase and takes the leading position away from Hong Kong and Taiwan. After three years commuting between Hong Kong and Beijing, he has finally opted to move his family to the Chinese capital by the summer.

AUTO

Beijing & Nanjing: A Tale of Two Palios

By Jiang Zhong

Fiat changed its Palio billboard at the eastern third ring road for the third time in four months. This time it reads All New Palio Comes to You.

Early last November Fiat had erected such billboards in five important auto markets in China: Beijing, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Tianjin. Before last December 9 all these billboards were veiled in yellow tarpaulin. Fiat attempted to arouse consumer curiosity in this way. On December 9 with the opening of Shanghai Motor Show 2001, the domestic-made Palio made its debut before Chinese consumers.

On January 29, 2002 Nanjing Fiat Auto Company, manufacturer of Palio, announced the car's entry into the Chinese market. This is the first car to be produced by a joint venture priced below 100,000 yuan at 84,000 yuan, and thus has stolen all the limelight since its debut.

However Chinese customers cannot buy the Palio at present, because it will not shipped to the dealers until around mid-March. The manufacturer's attempted to heat up the sales of its new product by prolonging the warm-up process.

Two Palios, two prices

However this Palio is not the first product of its line to be sold in the Chinese market. Palio Weekend has been on the market since last June.

The Palio Weekend, a version of a station wagon, was sold in China and manufactured in Poland. It was sold at a price twice that of its Chinese counterpart, although the two cars are similar in many respects when the specifications are analyzed. The discrepancy between the prices does not reflect the difference in value of the two cars however.

Such a discrepancy in price is natural until China's auto industry's WTO commitment is fulfilled, said Chen Ning, general manager of the Marketing Department of Beijing Turin Auto Saloon.

As to the effect of the large discrepancy on the sales of the two cars, Chen said that it was a little early to talk about the long-term market performance of a product in a turbulent market. The fact is that the company



One of the ever-changing Fiat billboard on 3rd Ring Road, caught it with tarpaulin off

Photo by Chen Shuyi

has sold some 250 Palio Weekends since last June, which constitutes a great achievement for a new comer to the Chinese auto market. Since the Palio will not appear on the market until March 10, predicting its market performance is risky at present. According to Beijing Turin Auto Saloon statistics, more than 200 Palios have been ordered in less than a month.

Chen reasoned that the two cars were aiming at different client groups. Most Palio Weekend clients buy this product as their second car, and trust the quality and comfort of imported cars. Furthermore, 160,000 yuan for the Palio Weekend is a relatively low price for an imported car on the Chinese market. While the Palio is a popular choice for ordinary Chinese families who are attracted by its reasonable price of 84,000 yuan.

Now is a buffer period for Chinese auto market, said Chen. The car import quota of 2001 had been used up, while that of 2002 had not been issued. Chinese clients are expecting to see the first imported cars of 2002 in June. During this period Palio Weekend would undoubtedly see further improvement in sales.

Companions or competitors

Luo Mei, Marketing Manager of Nanjing Fiat, said that the price discrepancy should be considered reasonable if factors of tariff, charges of shipment and differences in specifications are taken into consideration. The two products have different profitable niches, and all benefit from Fiat's advantages in reliability, after-sales service, and technology innovation. Palio and Palio Weekend are not rivals, but cater to opposite ends of the Chinese auto market.

Luo continued that the domestically made Palio would supply the best products and best service to clients. Customers can also buy the Palio with a loan from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

The large price discrepancy between products of the same brand was a special phenomenon of a special period in China, and with the fulfillment of the Chinese auto industry's WTO commitment, such phenomena would never occur again, Luo concluded.

New Cakes Await Investors' Attention

Revised central government's investing guidance lists four categories of industries to overseas investors. Experts believe it brings more business opportunities

By Zhao Hongyi

Agriculture, energy, transportation, infrastructure, new materials are the industries where foreign investment is welcomed, confirmed the central government in its newly revised guiding regulations to foreign investors. The authority also encourages foreigners to start business in the western part of China, where it is implementing its "Western Development" initiative.

The revised guidance was released Tuesday this week and will take effect from April 1. Experts believe it increases greatly the number of industries and geographic areas available for overseas investors.

Environment protection and regeneration, state-owned enterprise reforms, small

business start-ups are areas where foreign investment is also expected. Foreigners will be allowed to hold a controlling stake in large state owned enterprises, which was once forbidden.

The service industry - including banking, telecommunications, securities, insurance and tourism - will gradually open for cooperation, according to the new regulations.

China revises the guiding regulations for foreign investors every few years. The last version was made in 1997. Officials from the State Development Planning Commission (SDPC) said the old version expires with the implementation of the new one.

The new regulations divide industries

into four categories: welcomed, encouraged, limited and restricted. In general, the new regulations give foreign investors more opportunities to invest and larger ground to play in China's economic development, say analysts.

Restricted investments include those threatening national security and social and public benefits, hazardous to the natural environment, resources and human beings; those occupying farming land; threatening the safety and use of military facilities; involving Chinese unique skills and know-how; and those defined by laws and regulations.

The regulations stipulate that overseas Chinese, investors from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan enjoy the same preferential

treatment.

The guiding regulations, as a central government's policy, enjoys the highest authority and are believed to be a guide for the country's development priorities in the next decade. The regulations have been jointly revised by the State Development Planning Commission, State Economic and Trade Commission, and Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC), together with other ministries under the State Council.

Last year, actual FDI flows into China rose 10.43 per cent year-on-year to US\$46.846 billion, according to MOFTEC statistics.

Contracted FDI, a more volatile indicator of future investment trends, surged 16.01 per cent to \$69.191 billion.

Popular Imported Cars Sell Out

By Jiang Zhong

Statistics of the Yayuncun Auto Market, the largest auto market in Beijing, have revealed that some best-sell imported cars are out of stock.

Qie Xiaogang, director of Yayuncun Auto Market Information Center, predicted that the prices of these cars were expected to rise to high levels.

The car import permission system should be adopted within the protective period for the Chinese auto industry, as stipulated in China's WTO commitment, explained Qie. The dealers of imported cars need to apply for import permission before they place orders. The import permission of 2002 has not been issued, and the first imported cars of this year will not be brought onto the Chinese market until June.

During the three-month vacuum period, clients may only choose their cars from those imported in 2001. If the dealers run short of cars they will naturally raise prices. The rate of price increase will depend on the relationship between demand and supply.

The price rise would not affect the sales of imported cars extensively, added Qie. The quality of imported cars is the most important selling point for both the dealers and the imported car clients; most of these clients worry more about quality than price. Furthermore, the price rise would not be too drastic. Even after the price rise, a car would cost much less than before China's WTO entry owing to the drop in tariffs.

Yayuncun Auto Market has sold some 800 imported cars since the beginning of 2002. Qie concluded this was good news for the dealers, though they ran the risk of running out of stock in a short period.

New Taxis to Cruise Capital's Streets

By Jiang Zhong

Beijing is planning to select new models to replace the currently used taxis in order to fulfill the city's Olympic commitment. Some manufacturers including international giants Volkswagen and Hyundai have contacted the traffic bureau and supplied respective solutions.

Liang Jianwei, director of the Beijing Traffic Bureau Taxi Supervisory Department, pointed out that being cheap, clean and comfortable should be adopted as the criteria for selecting the new taxi.

The result of a poll carried out among 200 taxi drivers showed that 38% of them would choose Jetta, 36% Santana and 24% Fukang. Few would choose premium cars like Mercedes-Benz. Luo Lan, a taxi driver who drives a Santana 2000 at present, said his car was seldom waved down on the street. He has to wait in a queue outside hotels for clients. This shows the taxi fare plays an important part in clients' decisions.

Beijing will hold a green Olympic Games in 2008, and the cleaning up of taxi emissions plays a central role in this campaign. Fang Maodong, senior researcher of China Auto Technology Research Center, said Beijing taxi emissions should meet the Euro 3 standards by 2008. However, many problems need to be resolved by then.

Chinese auto makers have little difficulty to produce Euro 3-committed cars by 2007 with the aid of imported solutions. But the issue of the taxi update is quite different however.

Beijing now features 67,000 taxis, of which most could meet only Euro 1 standards; updating should ideally take from two to three years. Then manufacturers would have at most three years for their new product development, which is a short period for the development of a mature product.

CETV Makes Its Way to Mainland

By Wang Ling

CETV (China Entertainment Television), the only entertainment and message channel of AOL (American on-line) to broadcast in Mandarin is now beaming across South China.

After broadcasting via cable in Guangdong province early this month, following official approval, CETV is actively promoting its image across China. A promotion evening was held in Beijing on Saturday as part of this process.

Stifen Markport, the Asia-Pacific president of Turner International Company, stated that there were many opportunities in China. Investing in China is an important part of the global development project of AOL.

According to a survey conducted by CETV, it has ten million viewers in Chinese mainland and 33 million viewers in Asia at present.



CETV held its celebrating party in Beijing earlier this week for their first presence on Chinese mainland. Gerald Levin (second, left), CEO of AOL Time Warner; Zhou Xun (second, right), famous Chinese actress; and Chen Yongguang (first, right), general manager of CETV, cheered at the party

Xinhua Photo

Foreign Capital Awaits Chances at Reinsurance Market

By Wang Ling

China Reinsurance Company (CRC), the only reinsurance company in Chinese mainland, is ready to absorb foreign, as well as private capital, after the country's WTO entry. Dai Fengju, the general manager of CRC, stated that the in-flow of new capital would help CRC become a competitive international reinsurance group, with shares still held by the state for the next five years.

According to WTO provisions, foreign companies are allowed to supply reinsurance operations of life insurance and other insurance. Now four foreign insurance companies are applying for the licenses for reinsurance business all over China.

Reinsurance refers to the insurance of insurance companies. An insurance company can transfer in whole or in part a large risk or contingent liability to a reinsurance firm.

CRC will widen its business from current reinsurance forced and required by law to market demanded reinsurance of property, life insurance, insurance brokerage and other financial services. One of its targets is to a possible listing on the stock market. CRC will establish operational business subsidiaries in the various insurance categories. These subsidiaries are independent in business and can be listed on the stock market once they meet the standards required. But CRC holds controlling shares of these subsidiaries in any case.

The reinsurance market of China has a short history and its market mechanism has not yet fully developed. The total assets of China's insurance industry amount less than 400 billion yuan. Management is another issue. The rapid progress of China's economy needs the support from a more developed reinsurance industry.

After joining WTO, China will play an important role in global risk-sharing strategy. Reinsurance has an enormous market potential in China. In 2001, CRC's income of reinsurance charges was 16.322 billion yuan, which had increased by 16.23% over the previous year. CRC's total assets were 18.56 billion yuan, recording an increase of 22.73%.

Jiang Ming, general manager of CRC Shanghai, stated that the Chinese reinsurance market is still developing. It needs more capital inflow and will have to adopt advanced management practices. Openness and internationalization are the most important prerequisites for a further rapid development of this industry.

Beijing Olympics Attract American Investors

By Xiao Rong

Mark Louis aims to help the 2008 Beijing Olympics after raising over 0.8 billion dollars for the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

As the chairman and CEO of American Olympic Asset, Mr. Louis was in charge of the marketing development of the Winter Olympics.

"Beijing will achieve great success in the marketing development of the 2008 Olympics, as many international corporations

target the Beijing Olympics as a gate to the Chinese market and pursue further opportunities of development," Mr. Louis emphasized.

He was more confident after meeting with Wang Wei, secretary general of the Beijing Organizing Committee of the 2008 Olympics.

"You have a very good program from the beginning, so the marketing development of Beijing Olympics will be a suc-

cess," said Mr. Louis.

American Olympic Asset was established by the Organizing Committee of the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics and American Olympic Committee to carry out the marketing development work of the Salt Lake City Olympics.

Over 0.86 billion dollars have been raised for the Winter Olympics, much more than the amount for the Atlanta Olympics, the Sidney Olympics and the Nagano Olympics.

German Company Pours Cash into Beijing Subway Building

By Shan Jinliang

Bilfinger and Berger Construction Engineering (B+B), one of the world's fifteen largest construction flagships, added large capital to its joint corporation in subway and light railway construction last week.

The joint corporation, Beijing Chang Cheng B+B, was formed by Beijing Construction Engineering (Group), the city's biggest construction business. The new capital injection brings its overall registered capital to 100 million yuan, half of which is from the German corporation. This is also the capital's first mega construction contract in a joint cor-

poration with a total registered capital of 100 million yuan.

Bearing in mind the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the city is determined to extend the current 50 kilometer-long subways to more than 200 kilometers with an investment of 90 billion yuan, closing the ten-year gap between developed countries and Beijing subways.

"Beijing welcomes more powerful foreign-based corporations to invest in its subway construction," said an official from the Beijing Construction Committee. Large amounts of capital and high technology are needed for the rail construction; however,

few Beijing companies run in the industry and their construction technology has fallen behind world advanced levels.

B+B enjoys a fine reputation in subway construction, having built a number of subways in Europe and Thailand using world-leading technology. The capital input will sharpen competitiveness in track transport projects, tunnel projects and highways projects.

Sun Weili, chairman of Beijing Construction Industrial Group, said recently that the group had planned to invest in a rail project construction in Tianjin, and on Beijing subway Line No. 5.

More People Injured by Firecrackers



Photo by Qu Liyan

By Sun Ming

Beijing police caught 656 people setting off firecrackers over the Spring Festival period, in contravention of the ban issued in 1993. This is the highest number since the regulation was introduced.

Of these, 587 received verbal reprimands, 22 were fined and 47 were detained.

People's Liberation Army Hospital 304, renown for its burns treatment, treated 182 patients suffering from firework related injuries during the 15 days from Chinese New Year's eve to Lantern Festival, more than double the number for the same period last year.

"My colleagues and I carried out 24 complex operations that night," says

Song Weixian, director of the eye department of the Beijing Tongren Hospital.

Liu Yi, 28 years old lost both eyes when a firecracker exploded in his face on the eve of Spring Festival. "I thought the fuse would burn for five seconds, so I didn't throw it at once, but it exploded instantly! When I regained consciousness, my two eyeballs had already been removed!"

Perhaps more unlucky was 5-year-old Zhang Li. On the first day of Spring Festival, his father took him out of town to a place where firecrackers were permitted. However, just as he put his head out the car window, a firecracker exploded right before his face, causing him to lose one eye. "Till now, we still

don't know why my son was hurt!" said the father.

Experts said in the past year, a number of important events took place, such as Beijing winning the 2008 Olympics and the Chinese team qualifying for the World Cup, so people want to express their joyous mood in the traditional festival.

Jiang Ming'an, law professor at Beijing University, says if the prohibition of firecrackers were not so restrictive, conditions perhaps would be better. "People have to take a risk when igniting firecrackers, without any protection." He suggests that some safe sites setting off firecrackers be set up within the city, which could be properly supervised.

Beijing Woman to Give Birth to Quintuplets

By Sun Ming

A Beijing woman due to give birth to quintuplets has become the focus of intense media coverage. Doctors intend to conduct a caesarean section on next Monday on 33-year-old Wang Cuiying, who is 34 weeks pregnant.

However, Wang and her husband are concerned at the prospect of raising so many children. "We were shocked when we first heard the news. We are too poor to bring up so many children," says husband Jiao Baocun, a farmer from Hebei Province.

"When our local hospital found there would be five babies, we came to Beijing to have an operation to reduce the number to two or three." But it was too late for Wang to have the operation, as she was already three months pregnant.

According to the couple, neither of their families have a history of twins or multiple births.

Now the five soon to be born babies have filled the mother's belly to the point of bursting. "I have to lie on my side all day and all night," says Wang Cuiying.

"The functions of her heart and lung are affected, so we have to conduct the caesarean operation soon. It's really not easy for Wang," says Zhai Guirong, the director of the department of obstetrics and gynecology of the Beijing Maternity Hospital.

"We must be very careful in the operation. As to the pregnant women conceiving more than two babies, it's quite dangerous for them and their babies."

According to the hospital, the rate of the occurrence of quintuplets is very, very rare. Since the hospital was founded in 1959, there has been only one case in the 1960's and only two of those survived.

Police Free Kidnap Victim

By Chen Ying

The kidnapping case of a Beijing university student, involving a 200 million yuan ransom, was settled in Henan province recently.

The hostage Ma Yacong, a 22-year-old student from Peking University's Adult Education and Continuing Education College, was rescued after being held captive for two days.

Ma spent the spring festival vacation in his hometown, Baofeng in Henan province. After returning to the house he was staying in from his parents' apartment on the evening of February 19, he heard someone knocking at the door at mid- night. Three strangers entered when he opened the door. One of them turned off the light. Another grabbed his arms. A towel was put into his mouth and a cap covered his eyes. The men took him away in a van after beating him.

An hour later, his parents received a phone-call: "Son or money? Think about it." At six of next morning, the kidnappers phoned again, demanding 200 million yuan in exchange for their son. Otherwise they said, they would kill Ma.

The parents decided to call the police after long consideration. The local police determined the whereabouts of the kidnappers by the phone they had used and seized one suspect, called Ji Zhiyuan. When interrogated, Ji confessed and named the five others involved. The other suspects were rounded up soon after.

Ma's mother is the former director of Baofeng City Credit Union and his father is the president of Baofeng County Bank. Believing the parents were rich, the gang decided to kidnap Ma, Ji told police.



Zhang Hong and some of his wares

Photo by Jia Dequan

King of Criers

By Sun Ming

These days, an old-fashioned hawker in Sun Dong An Plaza fascinates many people with his distinctive cries.

Don't look down on the hawker. He is Beijing's famous 'Crier King' Zhang Hong. In order to attract more customers, Sun Dong En Plaza invited him to promote the various traditional snacks along its Old Beijing Street.

Zhang's cries retain a strong accent of old Beijing. Many old Beijingers say the sound of him crying out his wares reminds them of old times.

"Hawker's cries of old Beijing are characteristic. I hope people could remember them forever," says 70-year-old Zhang when asked why he often receives such invitations. People will realize that fewer and fewer hawkers can be seen today, to say nothing of their cries.

Zhang Hong is indeed a 'Crier King'. He can cry out more than 200 kinds of wares and 80 per cent of the cries come from old times.

"A young fellow said he was interested with my cries but he didn't understand each word of my cries. Do you know why? My cries are just what hawkers cried in past times, some words or expression have already disappeared."

According to Zhang, he has been a hawker for eighty years. In order to make money for his poor family, young Zhang had to leave school and hawked newspapers in the street at the age of nine.

"At first, no one paid any attention to me and I could never sell my newspapers. An older newspaperman gave me some tips. I imitated the way he did it, and from then on, my newspapers sold well," said Zhang.

As he grew older, Zhang hawked bean curd, vegetables, dry fruits, and watermelon in the streets successively. He had a good voice, and his cries always attracted many customers.

"Carrot, cabbage - caraway, cucumber - leek, lettuce - potato, tomato..." Zhang still remembers how he cried when he hawked vegetables nearly sixty years ago. The cry has a certain tone, even it's just vegetables' names.

Zhang explained that crying wares isn't a simple thing, but an art. "Sometimes, I not only cry out what I sold, but also something interesting and unforgettable." For example, when hawking persimmon, Zhang cried "Big persimmon, like a lantern, not bitter, don't forget to buy some sweet ones for your grandmother looking after the house..."

As to the same wares, there were also different modes to cry it, according to different places. "In the south of the city the cry should be brief and powerful for it was noisy there; while in the east and west where there were a lot of big yards, the cry should be soft and ringing, and the end sound should be lengthened too, so that even people staying in the innermost room of a yard could hear me."

Zhang stopped hawking in 1951 and started working for Beijing Railroad Bureau. In 1982, he played a role in a film named Lament for the dead. In the film, set in Beijing in the 1930's, he gave an excellent performance as a hawker. From then on, he was became well known for his cries and picked up the nickname 'Crier King'.

Nowadays Zhang is often invited to take part in various performances, and to date, he has presided over 272 wedding ceremonies.

Despite his fame, Zhang hasn't gained much money from such work. "I feel shy to ask for money," says Zhang, "Crying ware is not a measure for making a living any longer but a traditional art of old Beijing. I sincerely hope more people could remember them."

Zhang has no apprentice. "The art hasn't gained enough attention from people and can't earn much money," he explains ruefully.



Photo by Wang Zhenlong

Millions of laborers from rural areas flooded to Beijing after Spring Festival. Most seek work on construction sites or as domestic helpers.

These laborers usually lack education or special skills, making it hard for them to find employment. Also many peasants seeking work in Beijing have little access to recruitment guides and often earn as little as 300 to 400 yuan a month.

(Shan Jinliang)

Foreign Affairs

Searching for the Class of '73



Robert Watts and his wife Judy



Students enjoy a barbecue at the Watts' home 25 years ago

By Su Wei

Robert Watts, former principal of King's School of English in Bournemouth, England, is looking for twenty-five Chinese who studied at the school twenty-eight years ago. The Chinese government sent the students to Britain to study English as part of a cultural exchange between the two countries in 1973.

Now retired, Watts remembers clearly that although they only spent two months studying in the school, the Chinese students all demonstrated an ability to learn quickly. He says he was also impressed by their diligence, good manners and discipline.

The oldest of the students was 29 and the youngest only 23, and they all wore "Mao suits", the blue tunic and trousers worn by Chairman Mao Zedong, recalls the former principal and the women never wore make up.

Watts has kept some photos showing the Chinese students visiting the Bovington Tank Museum, sailing on his yacht at Poole Port, having a barbecue at his house and swimming in his family swimming pool.

The photos are witness to the friendliness between Watts and his Chinese students. He even bought them swimsuits when they were invited to swim in his family swimming pool. Judy Watts, his wife, who was pregnant at the time, happily prepared a meal for the students.

The 62-year-old Watts regrets that he has been unable to find the group picture of all the students. With the passing of time, he can no longer remember the names of the students. However, he is determined to come to Beijing in the near future to attend the establishment of the Beijing branch of the King's School of English.

He hopes he will have the opportunity then of fulfilling his long cherished dream of meeting those students again and talking about old times in Bournemouth.

Bye-bye Beijing, Hello NBA

By Chen Ying

Another Chinese basketball player has joined an NBA team, following in the footsteps of Dallas Mavericks Center Wang Zhizhi, the first Asian basketball player in the NBA.

The Denver Nuggets signed Mengke Bateer, and held a press conference to welcome the 2.10-meter center on Tuesday.

Bateer, 27, former player for the Beijing Ducks in the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), flew to the USA Monday morning. This is not Bateer's first visit to the USA. He attended the Denver Nuggets' pre-season training camp in October last year.

"We're extremely excited to have Bateer back with us. We know this means a great deal to him, the NBA and basketball fans in China," said team General Manager Kiki Vandeweghe.

On March 3, the Nuggets will host the Mavericks, meaning Bateer will play against his national teammate Wang Zhizhi. "It's going to be a historic moment. It will be a milestone for China basketball. It's the first time two Chinese players have the chance to play on an NBA floor," Bateer told journalists.

Bateer, Wang Zhizhi and another talented player Yao Ming of the Shanghai Sharks, won the nickname "Walking Great Wall" at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Now fans are holding their breath to see whether Yao Ming will also be signed up by an NBA team. According to the local media in Chicago, the Chicago Bulls are interested in Yao.



Bateer shows his Nuggets Jersey to Beijing fans

Photo by Wei Tong

South African Sharks Saved in Beijing

By Sun Ming

After a breathtaking experience in Beijing, six sharks were flown to an aquarium in Dalian this week.

The six gray nurse sharks were imported from South Africa by Sun Asia Ocean World in Dalian, at a cost of \$60,000.

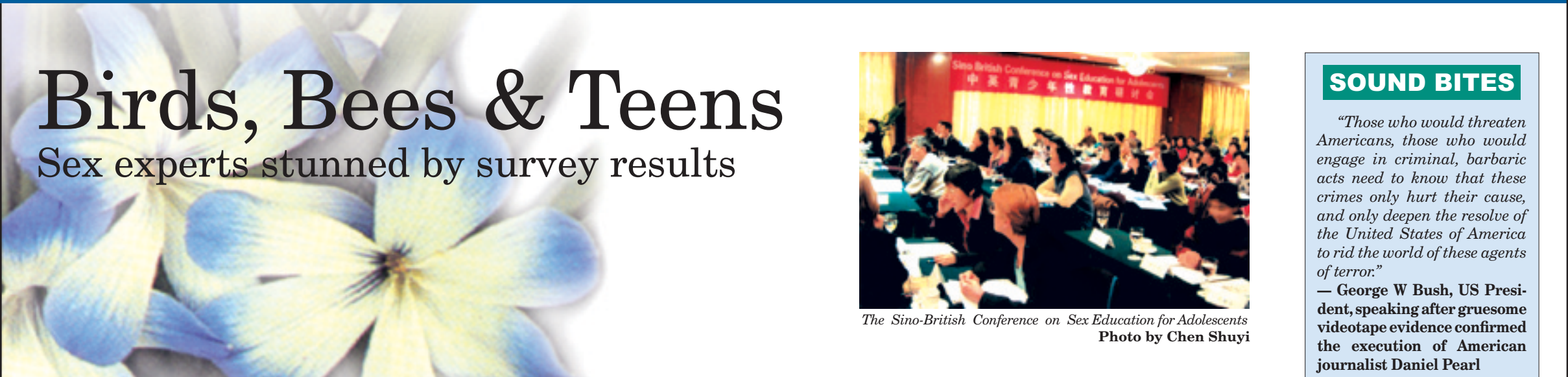
"Thanks a lot to Beijing Blue Zoo," said Wang Wei, the manager of the Dalian aquarium. "Without their help, the sharks would have suffocated."

According to Wang, the sharks left South Africa on February 23. They were stored in two large containers and transported

by airplane. When they arrived at Beijing Capital Airport the next day, they were found to be showing symptoms of lack of oxygen.

The experts accompanying the sharks rang Beijing Blue Zoo immediately to ask for assistance. According to Shan Yongli, the manager of the zoo, they transported two tons of seawater to the airport. "The seawater is made up by our zoo. It is the compound of sea salt from Israel and the freshwater in Beijing."

The six sharks soon recovered, and were able to continue their journey to Dalian.



The Sino-British Conference on Sex Education for Adolescents
Photo by Chen Shuyi

Birds, Bees & Teens

Sex experts stunned by survey results

By Chen Ying

Sex hotline operators, doctors, school teachers and university lecturers — more than 150 professionals in all — participated in a three-day conference on sex education at Trader's Hotel this week.

The Sino-British Conference on Sex Education for Adolescents organizers were at pains to point out discussions on sex education did not just focus on adolescents. Organized by the Cultural and Education Section of British Embassy, the Sexology Association of China and Beijing Oriental Huayu Culture Exchange Center, the seminar examined research and practice of domestic sex education in China and the United Kingdom.

Promoting exchange and cooperation on sex education in these two countries and sharing successful experiences, experts from both countries agreed China desperately needs to develop a more advanced program.

Fan Lihua, CEO of Beijing Oriental Huayu Culture Exchange Center

We issued more than 5,000 questionnaires to primary school and middle school students in the northwest and southwest of the country, mainly rural areas. The results showed in rural areas there is almost a total vacuum as far as sex education is concerned.

There were 3,100 questionnaires given to students in the countryside. Only 1,100 had any knowledge at all of sex and sex-related concepts. We were surprised that students reading grade one and grade two literature at middle school had no idea of the meaning of "sexual abuse".

We used to believe people should pay more attention to sex education for urban areas. However, we realized instead there is

a greater need for sex knowledge promotion in rural areas.

So I think there is huge difference between rural and urban areas. In the countryside, children lack useful knowledge of sex and sexuality while in urban areas, adolescents obtain more than enough information about sex, but mostly it seems to be negative information learnt through inappropriate means.

Chen Yiyun, professor, Social Science Institute of China Academy of Social Science

In China, adolescent sex education in a broad sense also includes gender consciousness, equality of men and women, interpersonal relations between men and women, love, marriage and so on. It's all about enabling young people to prepare for the future. The narrow sense of sex education has been accepted and partly practiced, while the broader sense of sex education has not been recognized and practiced yet.

There may be four main barriers to implementing adolescent sex education in China. First of all, there are the outdated concepts of adults — both teachers and parents — their misunderstandings and worries about sex education. The student academic burden is also too heavy in China. Third, most teachers and parents have not received any sex education themselves and need further refreshment about the topic. Finally, there is a lack of sex education materials suitable for teachers, parents and students, while qualified faculty is also a problem.

Recently, a movement towards better sex education has emerged in many cities in China, primarily driven by the international community and academic organizations. An effective approach to the issue would

be active participation by non-governmental organizations in the field as well as government efforts.

Jackie Green, principal lecturer in health education and health promotion at Leeds Metropolitan University

Objections to sex education usually stem from concerns about encouraging sexual activity, its corrupting effects, the destruction of children's innocence and interference with the rights of parents to handle sex education in the home.

However, there is now considerable evidence for us to draw on to address these concerns and convince the skeptics. A consistent finding across a number of studies is that sex education does not lead to earlier sexual activity and in many instances leads to a delay in the onset of sexual activity. Furthermore, those for whom school is the main source of information about sex are more likely to use some form of contraception during first sexual intercourse.

Adults consistently underestimate the age at which young people become sexually aware. In the United Kingdom, the strong message from young people themselves is that school sex education certainly does not destroy their innocence, but is often too little and too late. Sex education programs are also more effective when given before young people become sexually active.

Dr John Tripp, senior lecturer and head of the child health department at postgraduate medical school, University of Exeter

Sex education should begin when children are quite young. But it should be about biology. And when they get older, it should be about relationships, marriage, dating and so on. Parents and adults also need education about sex.

But the critical period is the adolescence. If boys learn to respect girls and not to harm them at this age, then they will continue later in their life to do the same, or vice-versa.

In our country it is the same — many adults have a poor sex education. But there is much more openness about sex. People can learn more from magazines, from each other and from the media. So adults in the UK are better informed about sex. When we talk about education being for life, we needn't begin classes for adults. But they need a communal atmosphere to exchange ideas.

Keith Davies, first secretary (cultural and scientific), British Council Deputy Director, British Embassy

Too much sex education and information too early for children has been debated in the UK, and is still being debated. There are strong groups in the UK — such as very religious groups — that think there should be very little information about sex for children. However, the majority, I think the enlightened majority, feel presenting knowledge about sex is the best way to prevent problems.

Probably the great problem is not sex education. It's the media. It's accessibility to movies and the Internet which you wouldn't want your child to see. So I think the most important thing is controlling the representation of sex in the media, rather than the sex education itself, as a means of helping your child.

Your Voice

You've read the article. What do you think? Contact us: yingchen@ynet.com
Next week: Should parents pay college tuition?

SOUND BITES

"Those who would threaten Americans, those who would engage in criminal, barbaric acts need to know that these crimes only hurt their cause, and only deepen the resolve of the United States of America to rid the world of these agents of terror."

— George W Bush, US President, speaking after gruesome videotape evidence confirmed the execution of American journalist Daniel Pearl

"He was the sweetest guy. You know how some journalists could be such jerks. Well, you could forgive Danny anything because he was such a dear sweet soul. There is a special place in hell for the people who did this."

— Alecia Swasy, business editor of the St. Petersburg Times, Florida, who worked with Pearl in the 1990s

"I'm willing to meet anybody from Saudi Arabia, formally, informally, publicly, discreetly, whatever, to get better information about the significance of this idea."

— Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister, suggests after a Saudi initiative that he is ready to resume security talks between Israel and Palestine

"Mr. Skilling, if you plan to tell this committee that you did not understand Enron's true financial condition, then you will need to explain why, why you failed to understand things that any diligent chief executive officer would have understood."

— United States Senator Jean Carnahan, D-Mo, said when former Enron chief executive Jeffrey Skilling denied he was aware of the company's precarious finances

By Chen Ying

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

房地产版(英文版)
让我们和太阳一起升起

《北京青年报 房地产版(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需求,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力争使客户的广告效力发挥至最大!

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3.telephone number:65032597 or 64951817

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1.it is located in the New Olympic sphere and it is between foreign account office and the Chinese-Japanese Hospital

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Workers and Farmers No Longer Backbone of Society

By Su Wei

In the early years after the founding of the People's Republic, Chinese society was divided into workers, farmers and intellectuals. With the launch of reform and opening up in 1978, and the growth of private enterprise, this simple classification model has become inadequate to describe modern society.

The Chinese Academy of Social Science has recently released the results of a ten-year study on contemporary social structure in China.

A variety of social classes

Contemporary Chinese society can be divided into ten classes: people responsible for state and social management, managers, large-scale entrepreneurs (businesses with more than eight employees), specialists and technicians, office staff, small scale entrepreneurs, people engaged in commerce and service, industrial workers, agricultural workers and the unemployed.

These ten classes are further divided according to five rankings. The upper ranking consists of senior government leaders, managers of large enterprises, senior specialists and entrepreneurs from large private enterprises.

The upper middle ranking consists of middle government leaders, middle management staff of large enterprises, managers of medium and small enterprises, medium level specialists and technicians and entrepreneurs from medium size private enterprises.

The middle ranking consists of elementary specialists and technicians, entrepreneurs from small enterprises, office workers and self-employed entrepreneurs.

The lower middle ranking consists of self-employed laborers, ordinary commercial service staff, laborers and farmers. The lower ranking consists of those living in poverty and the unemployed.

The number of agricultural labors has decreased sharply from 67% of the total employed in 1978 to 44% in 1999.

Agricultural labor class smaller

The number of agricultural labors has decreased sharply from 67% of the total employed in 1978 to 44% in 1999.

More than 50 million agricultural labors have turned to commerce and industry in cities in the past twenty years. About 30 million have become entrepreneurs and management staff and workers in village and township enterprises.

Leaving the hometown and engaging in commerce and industry, establishing village and township enterprises, enrolling in higher education courses or seeking work in large cities have become increasingly common trends for agricultural labors, faced with fewer and fewer employment opportunities at home.

Zhang Guifang from Gansu who works as a waitress in a small restaurant in Beijing says it is Beijing's special atmosphere that attracted her. "As the capital of China, Beijing is full of historical and modern cultural taste. Everything is in the leading fashion." Zhang has also won the admiration of people from her hometown.

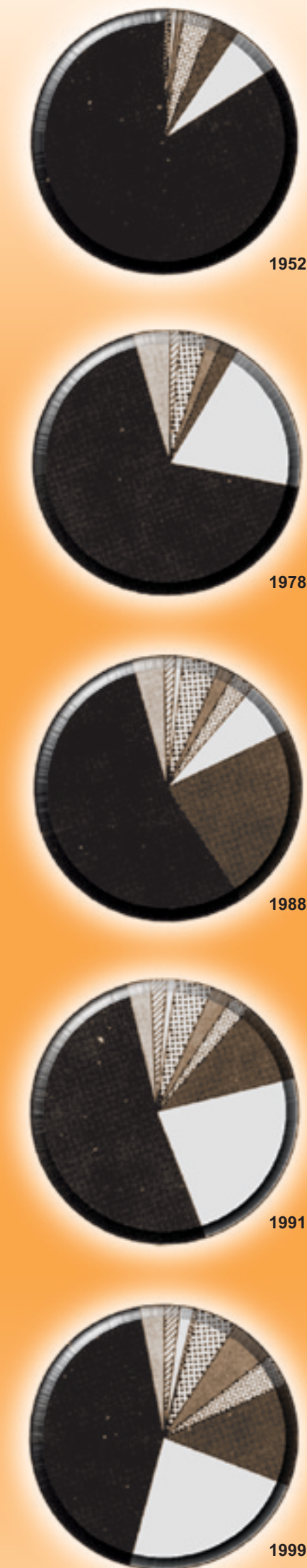
However, there is still an excess of agricultural laborers in China, especially when compared with advanced countries (less than 15%) and the average for developing countries (less than 20%).

Chen Guangjin, a sociologist at the academy points out that the movement from agricultural labor to other forms of employment has been taking place at an unprecedented rate, however, "The difference between cities and rural areas is still too big." He says that comparatively large number of agricultural labors will hinder the process of removing the disparity between city and villages.

In a move aimed at facilitating this shift, the central government has relaxed its stringent control on residential permits, allowing farmers to change their original status if they are able to find stable employment in cities. The local government in Hunan has made significant progress in this regard. By the end of 2002, all Hunanese will enjoy equal residential rights, whether they are city or rural dwellers.

However not all farmers are enthusiastic about obtaining city residential IDs. After the local government of Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei Province announced that farmers could change their rural IDs for city ones, less than 700 took advantage of the offer in the following seven months.

The main reasons are that moving to the city poses new problems for farmers, as they lack professional skills, and for many, their living environments have



Social class changes from 1952 to 1999

- People responsible for state and social management
- Managers
- Large-scale entrepreneurs
- Specialists and technicians
- Office staff
- Small scale entrepreneurs
- People engaged in commerce and service
- Industrial workers
- Agricultural workers
- Unemployed

not changed. Meanwhile, certain allowances available to farmers will also be forfeited. Lu Hua, a farmer in Hebei, says after changing his residential ID, "we now have no children's education allowance."

Another reason is that the cost of living in cities is generally higher than in rural areas. Another farmer from Jilin province commented that pork was almost twice as expensive in Beijing as it was in his hometown.

Percentage of Workers declines

The 1985 national population census put the total number of production and transportation workers at 83 million, compared with 98 million in 1990 and 101 million in 1999. However, the percentage of population these workers represent has decreased from 16% in 1982 to 15% in 1990 and 14% in 1995.

The decreasing percentage of the working class is due to industrialization and industrial structure adjustment. After the introduction of reform and opening up, this process has sped up significantly.

With the faster development of secondary industries in the 1970s, the number of workers surpassed those in tertiary industries by 5%.

But the growth of the newer industries such as finance, communications and media has seen the number of people employed in tertiary industries skyrocket. By 2000, nearly 28% of all workers were employed in tertiary industries, 2% more than in secondary industries.

Emphasis has switched from workers to profits, so more attention has been directed at management staff, and policies have tended to favor management. Hence, some workers have turned to starting up their own businesses, joining the management class.

Meanwhile many of the reforms introduced over the past two decades have caused a reduction in demand at the lower end of the labor scale, leading to redundancies and the laying off of workers in certain sectors.

By the end of 2000 there were 1.76 million registered private enterprises in China, with a total of nearly 4 million entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs swell the middle class

The middle class has been the fastest growing class since 1978. Large-scale entrepreneurs have increased to 0.6% of all the classes by 1999 from zero. Small-scale entrepreneurs and managers have grown from 0.03% and 0.23% to 4.2% and 1.5% respectively. The figure for commerce and service staff has also increased six-fold to 12% of the total in 1999.

One of the factors essential in achieving modernization is the development of an entrepreneurs class. It is widely accepted that Japan might not have modernized so quickly after the Second World War if the entrepreneur class hadn't increased from less than 2% of the total population in 1950 to 6% 1980.

In contrast, there were only 150,000 small-scale entrepreneurs in China before the 1980s and no large-scale entrepreneurs. Furthermore ordinary workers at that time were regarded as being qualified to manage factories.

With the political and economic reforms of the latter part of the twentieth century, the non-public economic sector has been encouraged, becoming a pillar of the domestic economy.

By the end of 2000 there were 1.76 million registered private enterprises in China, with a total of nearly 4 million entrepreneurs.

Wu Guo, an entrepreneur in Shanxi says family run businesses are very now common, even in small towns in Shanxi. "Only within several weeks, we can be approved to set up businesses. We are small in size, but the government has clearly recognized that we should never be ignored!"

Since the 1990s, more managers in large enterprises have appeared and the size of the private enterprises has increased. Taking Shenzhen as an example, by the end of 2000 managers of large enterprises accounted for over 6% of the middle classes, more than in Japan in 1980.

However the structure of the middle classes is still pyramid-shaped, with the lower middle class accounting for 45%, the middle class 37% and the upper middle class 18%.

Furthermore, private entrepreneurs remain relatively poorly educated. In 1998 only 10% of the private entrepreneurs were university educated, compared with 44% of state-owned enterprise managers and 41% of joint venture managers.

Weekly Survey

Birthday Celebrations Popular with City Dwellers

Birthday celebration among young educated people are becoming more popular.

www.horizonkey.com reveals that people in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are very enthusiastic about holding birthday parties, at 61%, 49% and 48% respectively.

Residents in Zhengzhou, Shenyang and Nanjing are also keen on celebrating their birthdays. However, only 35% and 31% people in Wuhan and Shenyang are interested in birthday celebrations.

More than 47% of the surveyed women say they have had birthday celebrations compared with 44% of men. Birthday celebrations are most attractive to the 18 to 25 age group. 49% of those aged between 26 and 35 and 48% aged between 56 and 60 have also celebrated their birthdays in a variety of ways.

The survey also revealed that those with a higher level of education are more likely to have birthday celebrations; 62% for those with university background followed by 46% with senior high school education.

Families Making Purchasing Decisions Together

More family members are involved in decisions such as buying insurance, purchasing houses and cars as well as children's education this year.

Among the surveyed 5,386 families throughout China, nearly 53% have planned their education expenses together and in nearly 20%, two family members make the final decision. 38% families deciding to buy houses arrive at decisions in the same way.

However, among 45% of families who have taken out or intend to take out family insurance, two family members make the decision in only 10%. For the 2% of families having bought or considering buying cars, decisions are still made by one family member.

However people of different ages usually play different roles in making purchasing decisions within families.

Most decisions regarding insurance are made by middle-aged women, while decisions about house purchases are mostly made by middle-aged men.

Slightly more than 50% of families depend on men aged between 35 and 50 to make decisions on the purchase of cars. But there is no difference between women and men aged between 35 and 50 in deciding on children's education expenses.

Independence Vs. Family Support

City dwellers tend to be more influenced by their families than farmers, though they are more likely to consider their future depends on themselves.

A survey conducted by www.horizonkey.com discloses that nearly 45% of city dwellers believe their future is in their own hands compared with 36% for farmers. In contrast 75% city dwellers say they are grateful for their family's support during childhood, almost 15% more than farmers.

Meanwhile, 23% surveyed with university degrees say their own efforts are more important to their future, compared with 27% with junior middle school education.

The difference between the surveyed 4,236 city dwellers and 1,115 farmers all over China suggests that the traditional idea that a family is essential to ensure a comfortable life during old age remains especially strong among farmers.

Labor-Capital Conflicts Turn Violent

Three senior executives of state-owned enterprises in Hubei province have been murdered in the last six months.

By Liu Ziling/Tian Jianjun/Ivy Zhang

Three murder cases involving senior executives of state-owned enterprises in Hubei province have focused attention on labor-capital conflicts that have arisen during China's economic transition period.

On July 14, 2001, Qi Song, General Manager of Huanggang Aluminum Group, the largest state-owned enterprise in Huanggang city of Hubei province, was murdered at his home by the son of a laid off employee.

On October 31, 2001, Wang Shihua, director of Xianning Chemical Fiber Plant was murdered in his office by an employee who had been seeking an increase in a compensation payment.

On December 20, 2001, Wu Shiping, Deputy General Manager of Xiangyang Material Corporation, was killed by the son of an employee while conducting bankruptcy liquidation at one of its affiliated fuel companies.

Violence against state-owned enterprise leaders

On November 23, 2001, Xianning Intermediate People's Court sentenced Xu Yudong to death for the murder of Wang Shihua, director of Xianning Chemical Fiber Plant.

Xu Yudong, 28, had been a contract worker at the local state-owned fiber plant. He started work at the plant in 1993.

Two years later, the plant's polyamide fiber project was put into commercial operation. However, the project lost money from the start due to lack of market potential, limited production capability, exchange rate changes and increases in the cost of raw material. The annual losses amounted to 10 million yuan.

Starting from 1996, the plant implemented a series of reforms in an effort to cut the staff from 550 to 450.

In 1998, Xu signed a contract with the plant under which he would take unpaid leave for a period of three years. When Xu sought to resume his post three years later, he was refused employment because he was "not competitive".

In October, 2001, the plant issued a compensation policy for those who voluntarily applied to terminate their labor contract with the plant. Xu was one of six applicants. Based on the policy, Xu was offered a total of 3,424 yuan as a one-off compensation payment. He argued that the sum was inadequate and that he would have financial problems when got old without a pension.

Xu requested many times for an increase in the amount of compensation, and plant officials eventually decided to give every applicant a minimum of 5,000 yuan. Xu was still unsatisfied.

On October 31 last year, Xu walked into Wang Shihua's office, and threatening him with a knife, demanded the director increase his compensation payment. When Wang grabbed Xu's

arm and called for help, Xu stabbed Wang in the abdomen. Wang died shortly after.

The two other cases also occurred during the time when the organizations were undergoing systematic changes.

The 19-year-old Yi Luo murdered General Manager of Huanggang Aluminum Group Qi Song in anger at his father being laid off and Qi's refusal to speak with him. Ding Xiaoxi, the son of an employee at Xiangyang Material Corporation killed the company's deputy general manager for similar reasons.

What are the causes?

Local government officials and executives of the state-owned organizations all deny a link between the violence and corporate reforms.

However investigations have revealed that the three organizations concerned suffer systematic problems in the aspects of approaches to reform, social welfare and policy implementation.

Tan Liwen, vice president of Wuhan University Business School says problems in regional mechanisms still exist, although the overall environment for reform is improving. Due to conceptual and financial

Incomplete social welfare systems in the poverty stricken areas give rise to conflicts between corporate reforms on one hand and employees' interests on the other, says Tan Liwen, Vice President of Wuhan University Business School

restraints, social welfare systems in the poverty stricken areas such as Huanggang, Xianning and Xiangyang, where the crimes occurred, are far from complete, giving rise to conflicts between corporate reforms on one hand and employees' interests on the other.

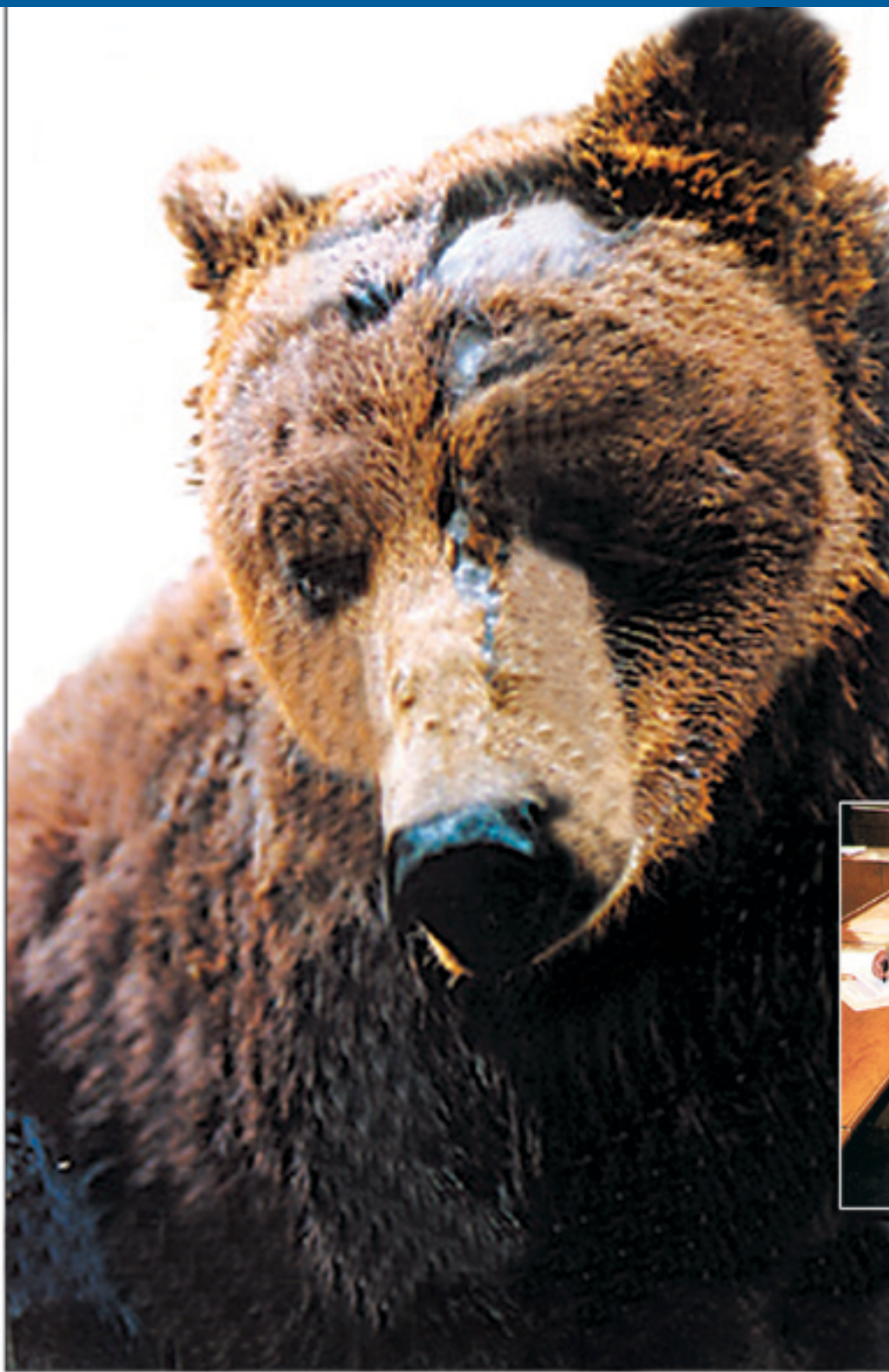
Is the corporate mechanism the only reason behind the murder cases? A staff member at Xianning Chemical Fibre Plant who requests anonymity told reporters that he has been working at the plant for about ten years. The plant is sweeping out many of the workers now by giving them thousands of yuan in an effort to ensure the plant's survival.

However, while many employees are being laid off, some people are being employed, with the help of "special contacts". While officials claim there is no money, a new plant-owned apartment building has been completed and all officials live in bright and well-furnished apartments.

Corruption of some government and corporate officials leads to resentment by laid off workers and the unemployed. Before he was executed, Yi Luo claimed his major motive for killing the General Manager of Huanggang was that "Qi Song's family is very rich but I'm so poor, I can't even afford to take a trip to Changsha (the capital city of Hunan province)."

Li Xianpei, a professor at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law says some local government and state-owned enterprise leaders have ethics problems and focus only on short-term benefits, rather than taking a long-term view. As a result, many projects end up with no market and no profits.

At the same time, they are unable to implement effective plans to address problems when conducting reforms.



A brown bear injured in the attack.

Inhuman action

Liu Haiyang, 21, is a senior student at Tsinghua University, majoring in Electrical Engineering. On January 29, Liu took a prepared bottle of soft drink mixed with caustic soda to the bear enclosure. He poured the mixture onto a Sun Bear and left without being caught, leaving the bear rolling on the ground and howling in agony.

On February 23, Liu returned to the bear enclosure. This time he brought with him two bottles of "drinks". One was real soft drink and the other, sulphuric acid. Liu first poured the real drink down into the enclosure to lure the two black bears to stand up. Then he poured the sulphuric acid into the mouth of one of the bears.

White smoke came up from the ground and the two bears cried out in pain. Liu tried to



Liu Haiyang, the Tsinghua University student, is confesses his vicious act.

Cowardly Attack on Beijing Bears

A Tsinghua University student pours sulphuric acid on two Asiatic Black Bears at Beijing Zoo

By Ivy Zhang

Liu Haiyang, a senior student from Tsinghua University, poured sulphuric acid into the mouth of an Asiatic Black Bear at Beijing Zoo last Friday, causing severe injuries to the animal. Another black bear nearby also suffered injuries.

This was the second time Liu had gone to the zoo to "torture" the bears. According to Liu, the reason for his vicious act was to test the bears' response to the acid.

Four medical specialists from Beijing Jishuitan Hospital examined the injured bears Monday afternoon. They concluded there was

virtually no chance of saving Dudu, the five-year-old black bear's left eye and only a slim possibility of him regaining his sight in his right eye.

The black bear was unable to eat anything for three days. However from Wednesday, his situation improved somewhat. His right eye seems to be regaining weak eyesight and he is able to walk, drink water and eat light food. The sun bear and two brown bears injured in an earlier attack are also recovering.

Beijing Zoo is organizing a special medical team to treat the bears.

run away but was caught by zoo guards.

According to Wang Baoqiang, the deputy director of Beijing Zoo, a total of five bears were injured in the two attacks; three Asiatic Black Bears, one Brown Bear and one Sun Bear. The Sun Bear, the only male of its species in the zoo has since lost its reproductive ability.

Wang says this is the first time such a barbaric attack has occurred at the Beijing Zoo since its founding nearly a century ago, though there are many cases in which animals become ill due to visitors' feeding them.

What are his motives?

A spokesman for Tsinghua University says Liu's academic performance is excellent and he had been recommended to pursue graduate studies before the tragedy occurred.

In the detainment center, Liu said that he had been curious and wanted to see whether the bears could tell there was something special in the drink. "I didn't mean to hurt them. I kind of like animals," he said.

Liu says that he read a book saying that bears have a keen sense of smell. So he decided to have a try.

Growing up in a divorced family, Liu does not have many friends and has never had a girlfriend. His only interest is reading books and he goes back home to see his mother once every two weeks.

What's ahead for Liu?

According to a lawyer, Article 341 in China's Criminal Law can be applied to this case. It states that those who illegally hunt or kill rare or endangered animals protected by the state may be subject to up to five years in prison and fines, however in severe cases, the prison term can be ten years or more.

Animals in the zoo are defenseless, thus Liu's case should be categorized as severe. However, if Liu proves to have mental illness, he will be tried in a civil court rather than criminal court.

Wu Boxin, a professor from Chinese People's Public Security University, says that Liu might have cognitive problems and he is likely to commit crimes when he lacks psychological comforts.

Visitors feeding animals remains a problem

Wang Baoqiang, the deputy director of Beijing Zoo, says it is always a problem preventing visitors from feeding the animals. On weekends and holidays, keepers deliberately cut the amount of stock. However, many animals in the zoo suffer from digestive disorders on Mondays.

Wang says there are no foolproof ways of keeping visitors from feeding the animals. There are no clear provisions in Chinese law for dealing with people who violate the regulations about feeding the animals.

Photos by Qu Liyan

Medical specialists examine the severely injured black bear nicknamed Dudu.





A daily greeting to his cat, Heizi

*Once I decide to do something, I'll do it until I succeed.
I learnt to stand on my own feet as a little child, and took on the world alone.
The only thing I thought about was to beat whoever beat me.*

— Zeng Wei

Success Is The Only Option

By Zhu Lin / Zhao Pu

From a hotel attendant to a manager of Capital Entertainment & Management Company and senior consultant to the Beijing Music Festival, 44-year-old Zeng Wei has raced up the ladder of "Opening Up and Reform". Chinese of his generation now form the pillar of today's society, having shouldered heavy social and domestic pressure. They lost vast chunks of time during the Cultural Revolution, and now are using every opportunity to catch up. "Once I decide to do something, I'll do it until I succeed," said Zeng, "If I'm not through, I won't give up until I make it."

During his rise through society, Zeng has seen many facets of life, citing his motto as "listen a lot and talk less. Find out others' weaknesses". From his affable manner it's hard to imagine that he's worked in several prestigious companies such as Hewlett-Packard (China), Sony Pictures Entertainment and Beijing Radio Broadcasting Station. His amiable expression is often ready to crack a joke or two.

A boy on the warpath

Zeng's father died a few months after his birth in 1958, so little Zeng was brought up completely by his mother. Such a childhood molded him into a fiercely independent personality.

In the mid-1960s when China was on the brink of the Cultural Revolution, Zeng's family was persecuted since they had possessed their own tools to work the land and planted their own crops. When he was at primary school, as part of a re-education plan, he and his mother had to sweep the yard every morning, and report to the committee about their improved understanding every evening. Nearly all of his classmates looked down at him and many boys tried to beat him.

Zeng's obstinate character began to rebel and consider revenge. Of course he couldn't outdo the boys when they were together. So he always ran away when they tried to catch him. But then, he would punch them one by one on any possible occasion. One day one of his rivals was standing in front of the blackboard. Suddenly Zeng jumped onto the teacher's platform during the class in front of all his classmates, and threw himself on top of the strong boy. He finally beat him to the floor in that way.

Asked whether he felt miserable at that time, he shook his head, "Not really. The only thing I thought about was to beat whoever beat me."

Excellent English learner, disobedient attendant

Zeng didn't continue his schooling after graduating from high school in 1976 because he had to take care of his paralyzed mother. In 1977, he was assigned to the Friendship Hotel as a service attendant, in charge of the foreign experts' rooms.

He didn't want to be a cleaner for life, and

realized the only way to get out of the hotel was to master English. In his section, he got to know An Mei, an American expert working in the Chinese Academy of Social Science who was willing to teach him English. But the hotel had a rule forbidding attendants to enter into any contact with foreigners. The officials often disciplined him and lowered his bonus for breaking the rule, but he went on learning.

He never studied in a college. In 1980, he took the National Tests for College Entrance, applying to the Beijing Radio & Television Institute. He got the highest mark in the English test but didn't pass the mathematics test, meaning the total grade didn't reach the pass line.

In 1982 when An's husband was leaving China, he engraved a seal for Zeng as a gift.



Zeng's oil painting

"God found himself by creating the world"—the sentence on the seal has inspired Zeng ever since.

Leaping into the performing market

In 1986, Zeng finally left the Friendship Hotel to join Hewlett-Packard (China). He stayed there for nine years, which proved long enough for him to rise when his capability began to stick out.

As a young boy, he learned to play erhu and the violin. In 1981, a German expert gave him a CD and a Sony CD player, both of which hadn't appeared on the Chinese market at that time. He fell in love with the quality and technology of CD at once. When CDs started to be popular in China, he collected good-quality editions like a miner scrambling for gold. Once in the international audition exhibition held by the China National Publications Import & Export Corporation, he selected CDs over a whole Saturday afternoon and evening. He went there again

the next day, staying from 8:30 in the morning till it closed in the evening.

Now Zeng has already collected thousands of CDs. When famous violinist Maxim Vengerov came to China for the fourth Beijing Music Festival last year, Zeng was in line waiting for his signature, holding Vengerov's first CD ever published. "We don't have it at home," cried Vengerov's mother, "How on earth did you find it?!"

He knew his career could only follow the direction of classical music. So he grabbed every moment to write music criticism, translate English articles for magazines and get to know more and more people in the performing arts circle. In 1996, his mother's health declined severely and he had to take care of her in hospital. He had to leave Hewlett-Packard since he couldn't commit to regular working hours.

The same day he left Hewlett-Packard, he called Sony Pictures Entertainment/China where he used to write criticism for its CDs. The manager of Sony/China was keen, "You can come today if you like." The second day, he became executive assistant at Sony. Ironically, the location of Sony's office during that period was at the Friendship Hotel. Zeng went back to work there ten years after leaving the hotel, but with a totally different status.

Scaling the Beijing Music Festival mountain

Zeng says he always has the urge to do new things, "But I'm not bright enough," he pointed out, smiling, "My fate is, I have to go ten steps to accomplish things that other people may achieve in one step. So whatever I do, I begin to carefully prepare long before the event."

In 1998, after one year at the Beijing Music Radio in Beijing People's Broadcasting Radio Station, he started to work with the Beijing Music Festival, the first and biggest international classical music festival in Beijing. Only five or six people were on the team—the initiator Long Yu, the conductor, Zeng and three or four other people. When the first day of performances of the first festival came to an end, no sponsorship fees came in. The festival was facing the question "to be or not to be".

Yu and Zeng made a deal at that crucial moment. "If the worst comes to the worst, I'll sell my car, and you can sell your house," said Yu. Now Yu is still driving his car, and Zeng is still living in his apartment. The cash began to flow the following day. Now the festival is four years old, and has become one of the best music festivals in the world.

Zeng's biggest hobbies are taking photos and climbing mountains. He said mountains could nurture his mind, while by water, one hears the movement of flowing which breaks the silence. "It's completely quiet in the mountains. The only sound you hear is your own voice from the heart."

Friends in Zeng's lens

Photos by Zeng Wei



Violinist Isaac Stern



Pianist Maria Joao Pires



Conductor Charles Dutoit



Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter

Zeng Wei's Resume

1977-1986 Beijing Friendship Hotel
Guest Service Attendant

1986-1996 Hewlett-Packard China
Customer Coordinator / Photographer

1996-1997 Sony Pictures Entertainment China
Executive Assistant

1997-1998 Beijing Music Radio
Executive Assistant / Program Editor & Host

1998-2000 Beijing Music Festival (BMF)
Program Director

2000- Capital Entertainment & Management Company
General Manager



Zeng in his office

Photos by Zhuang Jian



Double-sided face of a god

By Miao Yajie

Three thousand years ago in the Ganjiang River and Poyang Lake basin, there lived an ancient kingdom that took the tiger as their totem. Their king's tomb was accidentally discovered in 1989 at Dayangzhou township, Xingan county, Jiangxi province. Considered as one of the most important archaeological wonders of the 20th century, the 485 pieces of bronze ware unearthed revealed to the world a highly developed bronze kingdom, which not only expanded knowledge of the civilization level of Jiangxi province but also of southern China as a whole. Since no historical records have been found on this kingdom, similar to the Sanxingdui culture unearthed in Sichuan province, the enigma has remained unsolved for the more than ten years following its discovery. Since 1989, the more than 1,300 pieces of unearthed articles have seldom been shown to the public. The hundred most representative pieces of bronze ware selected by the Jiangxi Provincial Museum are now on display at Beijing's Poly Art Museum. The exhibition under the name of Descendants of the Tiger is the first large-scale public show of the mysterious kingdom from the Shang period (16th -11th century BC).

A kingdom discovered by a pickaxe
During every summer and autumn, peo-



Cooking vessel with deer handles

ple living along the Ganjiang River secure the dike, which is in danger due to continuous attacks from floods. On September 20, 1989, the villagers from Dayangzhou township, Xingan County were digging mud on a dune at Chengjia Village, one kilometer west of Ganjiang River. Suddenly, an unusual sound broke out with the falling of a pickaxe. The villagers raked the earth, and a rusty bronze ware appeared before their eyes. The news that there were treasures underneath the dune quickly spread to the whole site. People rushed over to the spot, digging, quarrelling, and in no

time all the bronze ware unearthed on the spot were divided up among the villagers.

Late that afternoon, news of the unearthed treasure reached the county government. The deputy county magistrate immediately led the directors of both the local Public Security Bureau and Culture Bureau and ten more people, and hurried to Chengjia Village to collect the bronze ware door by door. Before daybreak the next day, all the seized articles were gathered in the county's culture bureau, among which there were weapons, musical instruments and ritual objects. Altogether 17 pieces, and some of those later on were verified as 'national treasures', first-class cultural relics.

A kingdom with highly developed bronze culture

A total of over 1,300 objects have been excavated from this Shang tomb in Dayangzhou. Relics were mainly divided into four categories: bronze ware, jade and stoneware, pottery and porcelain, and bones. There were as many as 475 pieces of bronze ware, among which 48 pieces were ritual objects, 232 pieces were weapons, and 143 pieces were tools. The discovery of the bronze ware proved highly significant to research on the Shang and Zhou period (16th century- 221 BC) bronze ware in the whole Yangtze River

Basin.

There were tripods, water and wine vessels, and cooking vessels that all came in various shapes and served as ritual objects. Most of them are large in size and elaborate in craftsmanship, among which are a four-legged cooking vessel with deer handles 105 cm in height, 78.5kg in weight, and a wine vessel with four goats' heads 60.5cm in height, and 35.5kg in weight. Other elaborately designed and cast objects include a tripod with a double base, and a loop-handled teapot. All these objects were rarely



Tiger with a messenger-bird on its back

seen in the dominating Shang Dynasty culture in China's Central Plains of the same period.

Among the musical instruments, there were three bells called Nao in Chinese, and one big bell called Bo in Chinese, which is the earliest Bo found in China so far.

Generally speaking, in the tombs of ancient emperors and kings and nobles, few tools and farming utensils appeared. However, in this Dayangzhou tomb, over 140 farming tools were found. Some objects showed traces of previous use, and many of the tools were finely decorated with all kinds of designs. Meanwhile some tools were wrapped in fabrics when unearthed. Thus some researchers have concluded that these farming tools were actually ritual objects. Farming tools buried together with bronze ritual objects have already illustrated the special position accorded to the tools.

Before this tomb was unearthed, ploughs were only found in the tombs after the Spring & Autumn period (770-475BC) and the Warring States period (475-221BC), and only one fork-like plough was found from Western Zhou (11th century-770BC). The discovery in the Dayangzhou tomb advanced the two tools to the Shang period (16th -11th century BC).

The bronze objects found in the Dayangzhou tomb form the largest in quantity and variety found in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. The discovery provides precious information on the age of the Wucheng culture, bronze ware in the southern area of the Shang period, and the relationship between Shang and Wucheng cultures.

A kingdom with unsolved mystery

Archaeological research shows that a Wucheng culture existed 3,000 years ago in the Shang period, in the middle and lower reaches of Ganjiang River in Jiangxi Province and northwest of Poyang Lake. It could

rival the Shang Dynasty in the Central Plains and the Sanxingdui culture in Sichuan Province.

People believed the Wucheng culture was an ancient minority branch of the Southern Baiyue nationality.

According to the traditional view, the Baiyue nationality was underdeveloped economically and culturally, as was their bronze craftsmanship. Although several tens of bronze ware were found in the Wucheng relics, most of them were small tools of poor quality.

The astonishing discovery of the Dayangzhou tomb unveiled the existence of a highly developed and powerful bronze kingdom in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, and their craftsmanship in no way ranks inferior to the Shang Dynasty.

A large bronze tiger in a lying position with two tails was found in the tomb, and many decorations featured tiger designs on the ear, leg and body of the vessels. The inclusion of the large cat suggests that the Wucheng people worshipped the tiger, took the tiger as their totem, and were descendants of the tiger.

A bronze halberd called Yue in Chinese was the symbol of royal right. Two halberds found in the tomb clearly proved the identity of the tomb owner, the highest ruler of the



Loop-handled teapot

bronze kingdom.

The Dayangzhou tomb marked the peak of Wucheng culture glory, and also the greatest achievement discovered so far in southeastern China of the Shang period.

However, since no record was found in the tomb, and no historical records of the Shang kingdom are available, the relationship between the kingdom in Jiangxi and the Shang Kingdom remains unclear. What happened to these kingdoms? How could they disappear all of a sudden? "Perhaps answers can only be found in later archaeological discoveries," said Jiang Yingchun, curator of the Poly Art Museum.

Moreover, scientific tests have confirmed the presence of radioactive lead in these bronze ware. According to the existing information on China's mineral resources, no mine of this unusual lead has been uncovered so far.

Surprisingly, this lead of mysterious origin was also found in the bronze ware excavated from the Sanxingdui culture located in Guanghan county, Sichuan Province.

One culture stood in the middle of Jiangxi Province, the other grew up on the Chengdu Plateau: how could these two cultures share something so unusual? The enigma remains intact.

Descendants of the Tiger
Place: Poly Art Museum, 2/F Poly Plaza, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie
(东城区东直门南大街14号保利大厦二层)
Dates: ongoing until May 1
Times: 9:30 -16:30 (Tue, Thu, Sat)
Hotline: 6500 8117
Entrance Fee: 50 yuan



Cooking vessel with tiger handles

Photos by Zhuang Jian

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By Shi Xinyu

This is the first book to express the true feelings of dog owners written by a group of Chinese," says Xiao Lan, a webmaster on the pets BBS on the website sina.com.

Bibi's Big Eyes, a book of stories between dogs and people, soon became compulsory reading material for dog owners and the hottest topic on the BBS after the website's recommendation. The book was published by Kunlun Publishing House in January 2002.

Composed from 13 articles written by 13 different dog owners, the book contains three parts: Everyday Is Like Being in Heaven, Realities and Sorrows, and Dogs Also Can Cry. The first part records sweet memories and funny episodes, while the other two parts contain some bitter scenes like loss and death, as well as stories of rescuing abandoned and ill-treated dogs. However each story ends, they all begin from love, which accounts for the applause the book has won.

Many readers, although moved to tears by the stories, have pointed out that some of the authors are not qualified dog owners, and worry that their poor conduct could mislead inexperienced dog lovers. "Some actions in the book could harm, or even kill their dogs," says Yang Aka, a young lady who has a cute Cocker Spaniel at home, "so many tragedies in the book should make us aware that love alone is not enough to guarantee a dog a happy and safe life. Those little things are using their whole life to love us, so it is our responsibility to learn more about our dogs and train them well."

"Actually, whether the authors are completely right or not, the book should be considered a success as it shows readers how happiness can come from exchanging love with dogs," concludes Xiao Lan.

NOTICE

To be a responsible dog owner please remember that everybody in Beijing, whether Chinese or foreign, must conform to the capital's restrictions and regulations on raising dogs. Some key points follow:

- Dongcheng District, Xicheng District, Chongwen District, Xuanwu District, Chaoyang District, Haidian District, Fengtai District and Shijingshan District are the main restrictive areas, while other areas have fewer restrictions.

- In the main restrictive areas, individuals are not allowed to keep large-sized, or ferocious dogs.

- Foreigners must apply to the Beijing Public Security Bureau before raising dogs.

- In the main restrictive areas, individuals who have been approved must pay 5,000 yuan as an enrollment fee for the first year, and then 2,000 yuan every subsequent year as a registration fee.

- In the main restrictive areas, dogs should only be allowed out between 8:00 pm and 7:00 am.

- In the main restrictive areas, non-registered dogs will be confiscated by the Public Security Bureau.



Confiscated dogs expecting to be taken back home



Mr. Grinning and Mr. Chubby Boy

By Tang Danhong

At the age of seven or eight months, Mr. Grinning (a Shar Pei dog) began to show his gifted amorous nature. But this doggy guy's muddled head and awkward behavior always made him the butt of jokes, as well as embarrassing me from time to time. Many colleagues at work keep dogs at home, so at the weekends we would often

take our "babies" to the office and hold parties there. Among all our dog guests, Fay and Princess were the most popular "fair ladies", but they could not attract Mr. Grinning. When all the other male dogs were courting Fay and Princess, my dear Mr. Grinning was fascinated with the legs of human beings: the legs of some male colleagues, the legs of my boss, and sometimes, most embarrassingly for me, the legs of some new clients of our company!

Well, Mr. Grinning didn't care, and his Dirty Dancing Show would begin any time he found a favorite leg. Even worse was that he would not easily give up the leg he had selected. One day he hung on to a leg of my boss's friend and accompanied the poor man up and down our 20-meter long corridor three times. 20 meters! Three times!

Mr. Grinning now is three times bigger than Mr. Chubby Boy (a domestic moggy), both in figure and appetite. He is a stout dog and has never experienced hunger. His healthy and happy life is mostly due to Mr. Chubby Boy's affection. Mr. Chubby Boy eats cat food, dark brown little biscuits in the shape of fish, and he can eat a lot. I once saw Mr. Chubby Boy eating: a fat cat absorbed in a crisp chewing sound, deeply moved, as if to tears. But at that time, if Mr. Grinning came across and stared at him in a pathetic, expectant look, he would stand to one side and willingly give his food to Mr. Grinning.

Sometimes Mr. Grinning, the clumsy old twit, would take Mr. Chubby Boy as his girl. I was often witness to some pretty hilarious scenes at home: under the table, by the sofa, or even in the center of the room, Mr. Grinning suddenly appeared and firmly held Mr. Chubby Boy from behind, and performed his Dirty Dancing Show. At that time, the only thing the poor Mr. Chubby Boy, who must have had all paws struggling in the air, could do is screech, sounding as if he was being tortured by tickling. Actually, this does not mean Mr. Chubby Boy is afraid of Mr. Grinning. In fact, when they are playing with each other, Mr. Chubby Boy often skillfully flips Mr. Grinning upside down. His paws, equipped with their sharp claws, are as swift as a great swordsman's sword and are capable of giving a good lesson to Mr. Grinning. The reason he doesn't worry about Mr. Grinning's disturbances is that he loves Mr. Grinning as his own child.

Mr. Chubby Boy never licks me: all his saliva goes to Mr. Grinning's fat and wrinkled big face. Mr. Grinning is usually numb to those licks, but when he is in a bad mood, he gives the cat a harmless bite as a warning.

Mr. Grinning likes to dash around the room excitedly playing with a doll, followed by Mr. Chubby Boy like a shadow. Mr. Grinning then behaves like an inebriated truck, and poor Mr. Chubby Boy is forever bumped into the air or smashed under the wheels. As far as I can tell, Mr. Grinning's company will lead to more disasters for Mr. Chubby Boy in the future.

(Extracts from *Bibi's Big Eyes* Translated by Shi Xinyu)

Falling In Love With Dogs



Stories of dogs written by their owners. Share the laughter, tears, love and sorrow that come from living with a dog.

Bibi's Big Eyes

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Published by Kunlun Publishing House in January, 2002 Price: RMB16.00

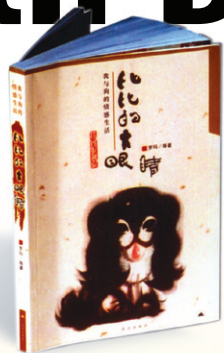


Photo by Gong Wenxia

Useful Tips for Dog Raisers

Here follow some recommended Pet Hospitals if your pet needs medical treatment:

China Agricultural University's Pet Hospital
中国农大动物医院

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海淀区圆明园路2号

Tel: 6289.3036
Chaoyang Veterinary Station's Pet Curing Center
朝阳区畜牧兽医站宠物防治中心

Add: A-2, East Block of Liulitun, Chaoyang District
朝阳区六里屯东口甲2号

Tel: 6508.3873

Sai Jia Animal Healthy Center

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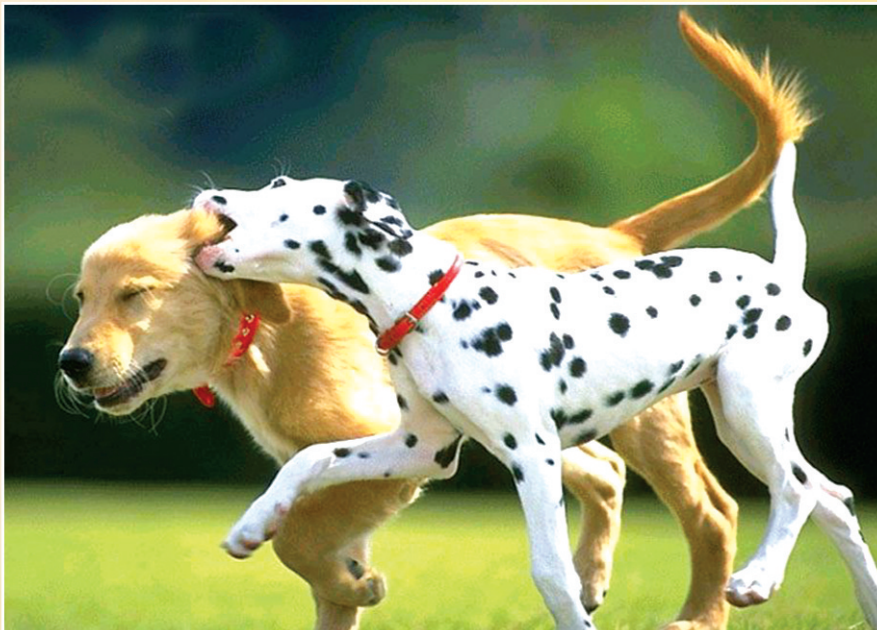
Add: No.7, West Third Ring Mid Road, Haidian District
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Tel: 6872.1909

If you see ill-treated or abandoned animals, you should contact:

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Photo by Cui Jun

Better Write Something Completely New

By Zhu Lin

Krzysztof Penderecki, one of the most prestigious contemporary composers gave some suggestions to Chinese composers before conducting his cello concerto featuring cellist Jian Wang in Beijing.

As guest conductor of the China Philharmonic Orchestra and an old friend of the Beijing Music Festival, Polish composer Penderecki knows a lot about Chinese music and musicians, "I know there are many Chinese composers trying to write avant-garde music nowadays because they couldn't do it in the '60s. But I think it's better to write something completely new."

Asked what he meant by "completely new", he answered, "There are always some new possibilities. We pushed music too much in the '50s and '60s. There has to be time to digest what's happened in music in the middle of last century. Because of the limits of instruments, it's almost impossible now to do something completely new."

Penderecki said electronic instruments were not the only solution, "I was also part of the avant-garde movement in the '50s. At that time, I would say the only solution was electronic. But now I don't think so. It's only one of the possibilities."

"And of course if music had already been perfect, there would be no development. I think there will be revolution; maybe not revolution but evolution. But I don't know in which direction," he added.

When he was young, Penderecki said he wanted to write for the future generation, "but now I write for the people in the present generation," he said, "I'm trying to find a way to communicate because music is communication."

Beyond Vanquishing Evil

By Xu Wen/Zhu Lin

Before winning the Golden Bear at the 2002 Berlin Film Festival, Hayao Miyazaki's animation, *Spirited Away*, had been the best-seller in Japanese movie history. In only 56 days after it was shown, the film broke the box office record as the highest-earning Japanese film ever.

The story of *Spirited Away*'s is about Chihiro, a little girl who wanders into a mysterious town with her parents that humans are not supposed to enter. Her parents are turned into pigs after they eat food that was not for them. Chihiro has to work in the public bathhouse to save them.

No feature in Miyazaki's world is simply good or simply bad. Usually the features in Chinese cartoons are too idealistic, boring audiences or putting them off completely. The witch Yu-baaba in the bathhouse is a greedy and selfish woman. But at the crucial moment, she saves Chihiro's life.

In the end, the story works not because evil is vanquished or that this other world disappears, but simply because Chihiro finds the will to survive. This is Miyazaki's belief - to destroy evil completely would be to destroy the world. "There is no such classification of a good man or bad man in my movie. What I want to say is: this is not a fairy world, but real society," he said.

Cartoons Bring Adults and Kids Together



Harry Potter's premiere in Beijing

Photo by Cui Jun

By Zhu Lin

Harry Potter's continuous popularity around the world and the success of Japanese cartoons at the Berlin Film Festival prove that children's entertainment is drawing ever-increasing attention from the adult world.

Chinese adults in recent years have been getting more



and more into cartoons. Talking about the reasons, Xiao Bai, a college student says, "I love Japanese cartoons. I find watching their exaggerated movements and expressions one of the best ways to relieve study pressure."

The cute Korean rabbit in flash world named Mashimaro is all the rave nowadays. Xiao analyzes the trend in the following way, "Mashimaro represents a group of people's nature today. They are a bit selfish and sly, and from time to time do something wrong, but nothing seriously bad. It seems they fit pretty well with society."

Most Chinese adults didn't have as many toys and entertainment as children today. Many of them hope to make up for lost time by watching cartoons. "I often imagined I had a magic broom when I was a little boy. But at that time, we didn't have Harry Potter. Now I feel very excited to watch the movie since it's like fulfilling a long-cherished dream," said Gao Xiaosong, a singer.

As adults have been taking refuge in the world of cartoons, the concept "adult cartoons" has grown up. "Children's tastes have exerted a strong influence on the adults," assures Yan Baohua, assistant chief editor of the Beijing Cartoon Magazine.

Voice of Nature Soothes Capital

By Zhao Pu

A breath of fresh air with the pleasant scent of nature wafted over the audience at the Beijing Music Hall at a minority group performance named Great Songs of Dong ethnic group last weekend.

The idyllic music, performed by the Dong Ethnic Group Music Troupe from Liping County, Guizhou Province in Southwest China, unwrapped a picture scroll of unpolluted pastoral life in four movements-Songs of Passion and Charm Amongst Mountains and Rivers; Love Songs in Log Cabins; Songs of Youthful Years and Ceremonial Songs of Dong Ethnic Group.

The audience was fascinated by the natural voices and music, as well as the particular ethnic customs they carried. "Though I knew little of the music, I can read that it's unpolluted, pure and clean. It'll be a good medicine for the city-dwellers," commented Tian Qinxin, a famous Chinese drama director.

The presentation was at the same time a display of culture and folklore of the Dong ethnic group. Every player in the performance wore a colorful handmade costume; girls wore heavy dazzling silver jewelry on their heads; boys held traditional musical instruments in their arms. Audiences also witnessed the legend of the heroic lovers and the hospitable custom of welcoming visiting guests.

The Great Songs of the Dong ethnic group, "gal mags" in the Dong language, is an ancient singing art generated in the Song Dynasty (960-1279 AD). The singing has been a major way of expressing love, feelings and served as a general means of communication for the Dong people. Children are taught to sing after birth in their mothers' arms.

Dong songs were discovered in the 1950s as the only multi-vocal folk music form in China, and amazed the world with their charming rhythms in the 1980s.



Photo by Cui Jun

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Da jie, Dongcheng District
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11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
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Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

Tea Time

By Li Dan

Busy work and an irregular lifestyle can make you forget the simple pleasures of life. Money goes, lovers leave, bar blues ring in your ears, leaving you with nothing but a headache...

To sip Chinese tea is to get in touch with your inner self, for Chinese tea culture is in harmony with Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism and their quintessence helps purify the heart and abolish worries. The first sip brings a sense of relaxation; the second sip is like rain falling on your face; after the third sip, your worries will be forgotten.

Kezhongzuo, near the Kerry Center, is perhaps the teahouse in Beijing that best combines western and eastern culture. The designer, from Taiwan, has combined the dominant coffee color with rows of light curtains suspended from bamboo poles, a wall of stone inlaid art, all softly lit and comfortable looking; a little Chinese, a little Japanese and a little European.

Smokers seem thoughtful; drinkers emotional, and people sipping tea look poetic. This is according to the owner of Kezhongzuo.

As well as the Taiwan Oolong tea, Yunnan Pu'er tea and various green and jasmine teas, there is also a selection of inexpensive health teas, including fruit tea, beautifying tea and nourishing tea, which you can enjoy while playing a game of Chinese chess or Go, or just chatting with your friends.

Add: Kezhongzuo (客中作) 1st floor of Guanghuaxinju (光华欣居) Building, Guanghuadonglu, Chaoyang District, terminal of bus 48.

Price: average 160 yuan for a table of four; 80 yuan per hour extra for private room (applies after 2pm).

Open: 10am-2am.

Tel: 65830451.

Right beside Kezhongzuo is another newly opened teahouse named Guangdaqingfu. This one is more typically Chinese. If you are musically inclined, they have a "Zheng", a traditional stringed instrument somewhat like a zither; you might like to try coaxing a tune from it.



CASHING IN ON CARTOONS

By Jiao Pei

Cartoon characters are popular with kids big and small, even grown up kids. A new shop called Outlet-King specializes in various kinds of daily use articles and toys featuring designs of popular cartoon figures.

The shop opened originally at Baiyun Market in Chaoyang District last December, relocating to the New World Department Store after a successful exhibition there.

As well as all kinds of cartoon toys, including Mickey Mouse, Harry Potter and various types of dinosaurs, there are cups, cushions, plates, music boxes, watches, candles, all featuring cartoon character designs.

Prices range from around 20 yuan to several hundred yuan.

Add: Front door of New World Department Store (first stage), 3 Chongwenmen Dajie, Chongwen District.

Open: 9am-9pm.

Tel: 85801839.



Photos by Li Ningdun

Do It Yourself Jewelry & Accessories

By Li Dan

Attention all you would be jewelry designers out there!

If you were presented with a selection of thousands of beads in various shapes and colors, would you forget about work and set to creating some of your own fabulous new designs?

There is a shop of magic named BeazU, where you can find a dazzling display of over 1,000 beads of every color and shape imaginable, made of Austrian crystal, Venetian glass, German black wood, Taiwanese pottery, Brazilian gemstones, to name just a few.

They can be used to make earrings, rings, brooches, bracelets, necklaces and other kinds of accessories.

Choose your favorite beads, decide the style you want, and the two salesgirls will help you

turn your design into reality, or you can take a selection home and make your jewelry all by yourself.

The result is sure to be admired by your friends, who will never have seen anything like it in the department stores. Of

course you yourself know there is only one of its kind in the world.

BeazU is actually a chain store of the Canadian Beads Works Company, which has over 20 stores in North America and Europe.



Photo by Chen Shuyi

The latest beads designed according to the culture of different countries are flown in monthly from Canada.

Add: NB 110, China World Shopping Mall, China World Trade World, bus 1, 4, 57, 9 to Dabeyao (Guomao 国贸).

Price: average for each bead is 10-20 yuan.

Open: 10am-9pm.

Tel: 65056899.

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902524 or 13910916642. Email: shopping@ynet.com.

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60% Decrease on Procedural Fees for Apartment Sales

By Wang Dandan

The State Construction Ministry recently published a "Notice on Procedure Fees of Real Estate Market". The notice regulates the titles of various fees, the content and method of payment. After publication of the notice, procedural fees fell by an average of 60%.

The notice says that the real estate exchange center should provide a dealing place, market information, verification of property rights and a back-up of apartment rental information.

The procedural fees include those for the transfer and purchase of apartments as well as for the leasing of apartments.

Fees for the transfer of an apartment will be determined according to the area, with a maximum of three yuan per square meter for newly completed apartments and six yuan for older apartments; fees for leased apartments will be charged per unit, with a maximum of 100 yuan.

At present, procedural fees for newly completed buildings in China are divided into two categories; 500 yuan for apartments under 120 square meters and 1,500 yuan for apartments 120 square meters or larger.

The notice only affects new buildings, as the procedural fees for purchasing used apartments were cancelled early this year.



Taking an apartment of 80 square meters as an example, purchasers should pay about 200 yuan for the procedural fees, 50% less than before. A 150-square-meter apartment will attract no more than 450 yuan in fees, about 1,000 yuan less than under the previous standard.

The formula is:

$x \text{ sqm} \times 3 \text{ yuan} = x \text{ yuan}$

Previously:

80 sqm = 500 yuan fee

120 sqm = 1,500 yuan fee

Now:
80 sqm $\times 3 = 240$ yuan fee
120 sqm $\times 3 = 360$ yuan fee

As the notice is published by the state, each province will set up their own standard, under the maximum standard of the notice.

Beijing already cancelled the procedural fees from January 1, 2002. Beijingers do not have to pay any executive procedural fees when purchasing and selling apartments.

Liu Hongyu, director of Tsinghua University's real estate institute says it would be better if the tax, stamp fees and land usage fees had been decreased, he suggested.

He also says that Beijing should quicken the pace of decreasing the tax on purchasing apartments, pointing out that in Beijing, there was a tax of 2% of the total price on the sale of second-hand apartments, compared with a 0.75% tax in Shanghai.

Real Estate Market Analysis Lower Prices In 2002

By Wang Dandan

The real estate business in Beijing developed rapidly in 2001, with big increases in investment and the total area under construction. From the fourth quarter, there was a slight slowdown in development and price. Which way will the market go in 2002? Bao Zonghua, deputy director of China Real Estate Research Committee provided Beijing Today with the following analysis.

The development of the real estate market in 2002

The real estate market is the weathervane of a nation's economy. When the nation's economy develops very fast, the real estate will closely follow it. China's economy will maintain its development speed in 2002. The continuing reform of the real estate industry will also activate and increase the supply and demand of apartments. While the sector will certainly not encounter tough times in 2002, it is expected that the rate of growth will slow somewhat as compared to 2001.

Will apartment prices fall in 2002?

There are about three price standards of apartment in China.

One is from several hundred

yuan to about 1,000 yuan per square meter, which accounts for over 90% of middle and small cities and towns.

The second is between 2,000 and 3,000 yuan per square meter, mainly in big cities.

The third standard only really applies to three cities: Shanghai and Shenzhen where prices are over 3,000 yuan per square meter, and Beijing, with prices over 4,000 yuan per square meter.

Average real estate prices have been increasing in China since 1996. Prices in 2002 will continue to grow.

Current problems and how to solve them

The development of the real estate industry become slightly unbalanced in 2001, with over development occurring in some cities, while some cities concentrated on developing high price buildings, ignoring the demand for low price projects.

To prevent the overheating of the real estate market, the supervision of land supply and control of real estate development must be regulated. Meanwhile development of second and third grade projects needs to be pushed, to ensure an even development of the market.



Who Will Be Responsible For the Damaged Car?



By Wand Dandan/
Lei Qiping

Lily left for her office one morning as usual, only to find that her car, a luxury Nissan

had been vandalized while parked in her apartment parking lot. Someone had smashed a 20-centimeter hole in the front right door of the car.

She informed the property management security department and asked for compensation, however they refused to pay anything, telling Lily that it was not their problem.

Lily: Property management department must insure the car as they charge the fees

Lily says that she paid 1,800 yuan for the parking lot for one year, and was required by the property management department to buy a 300-yuan anti-theft lock.

Lily insists that since she paid for the parking space, her car should be insured, and the property management department must be responsible for the damage.

Property management department: We only help the owner to call the police

According to the property management department, such incidents should be handled by the police or other relevant department. The 1,800-yuan fee is only for the parking lot, not the car's security. When there is any accident, the security guard will only help the owner by calling the police.

When asked why this incident was not reported, the answer was that it occurred during Spring Festival, and the noise of firecrackers drowned out the sound of the car's alarm.

Judge: Property management department should be responsible for the accident and loss

Property management departments are responsible for the safety of people and property, says Yan Ming, assistant judge of the Beijing Second Intermediate Law Court.

Residents park their cars according to the property management contract, which shows that both sides have already determined the legal responsibility.

The property management department's claim that the 1,800 yuan is only the fee for the lot is irrational.

However at present, the law only regulates that property management departments are responsible for the properties.

There is no detailed rule governing how much the property management department should compensate for losses caused by its breach of duty.

Residents should sign a special contract covering vehicles when they move into a residential complex, suggests Xu Chendi, lawyer with Zhongsheng Law Firm.

Or both sides should sign an additional agreement in the property management contract to specify who is responsible in the case of such accidents.

Circle Chair



By Wang Dandan/
Wang Yang

The circular chair is one of the most comfortable

chairs to sit in. Unlike usual chairs, where the back is comprised of two parts, one for the back and one for the arms, the arc shaped back of the circular chair is made of one piece.

Circle chairs not only look good aesthetically, they are very conducive to relaxing your back, shoulders and arms. The wooden back of the chair is usually carved with flowers or patterns.

Special thanks to Guanfu Classic Art Museum.



Photo by Han Kun

Guest **Target: The Kerry Center Hotel**
When: 16:30-17:30, Tuesday, Feb. 26th
Quiz **Hotel Detective: Li Dan**

David Hind, Canada

I prefer the sports club here very much where I often go to do exercises. Actually I live in the residence near the hotel. Here I'd like to mention the excellent employee service, they are very friendly and helpful, plus the modern environment which makes me feel very comfortable.

Anonymous

I choose here because it's close to my office. It is sure that this is the best business area in Beijing. Traffic jams sometimes might be a problem, but I enjoy walking to work very much. It's pretty okay plus the hotel really makes me feel like I'm home.

Jack Taber, U.S.

I'm now on a business trip in Beijing and I have been living here for five weeks. Everything here is pleasant; modern facilities including broadband Internet service, in room drinks, Spring Festival activities, etc. It's an exciting thing if a company fully understands the importance of quality customer service. This hotel does an excellent job. I'll stay here again when I next visit Beijing.



Price: 3,000 - 3,500 yuan
Description: fully furnished apartment, two bedroom, 70 square meters.
Location: Chaoyang district. 20 minutes by car from Beijing International Airport.
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Contact: Mrs. Zhao 13801365285 (24h)

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Activities

TMT (Telecom, Media & Technology) Happy Hours

The first monthly TMT happy hours to look for job, meet new friends or to network with industry leaders. People can bring their resume and register at TMP's job site at <http://cn.tmp.com>

Where: NYC Music Kitchen, 4F, Full Link Plaza, 18 Chaowai Dajie.

When: March 7, 6:30-9pm.

Admission: free.

Tel: 65881791-93.

Email: beijing@iandiasia.com

YPHH - Young Profession Happy Hour

All of you whose New Year's resolution was finally to learn the language, here's your chance to win a month of FREE tutorship (Chinese or English)! We have a Nokia 6210 and Durex as doorgifts with 480 calendars.

Where: NYC Music Kitchen, Full Link Plaza, 4/F1, Chaoyang District.

When: March 27.

Tel: contact Suzy Li at 84043691.

Email: huilinga@163bj.com

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Mar 1, 9-11pm, Cheap Mix drinks, plus the best Alternative in town.

Mar 2, 10:55pm, Premiership match; 1:30midnight, Newcastle vs Arsenal.

Mar 3, 23:55pm, Derby County vs Manchester United.

All live & English premierships!

Every Wednesday, pool night; every Thursday, darts night.

Where: 10 Taipingzhuang, near Red House Hotel, Chunxiulu, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 64150988/64167786.

Exploring Beijing - Chinese Culture Club

Visit NiuJie Mosque and the Muslim residential area around in Xuanwu area. English narration provided: Fee 30 yuan.

Where: Niu Jie, Xuanwu District. Meet at the entrance of the Mosque at 1:50 pm.

When: March 2, Sat. 2pm-4pm

Tel: 8462-2081/1350-103-5145. (Feng Cheng)

Hiking

Valley of the Pines

Where: Huairou County, north of Beijing.

Walking time: three hours.

The route: There are many pines along the route. This trail starts from a village called Huangkan, stretches through the orchards into a open valley, over the hill and along the ridge to the wooded side of the mountain. The hike will end at another village on the other side of the mountain.

Difficulty: 3.

Cost: 150 yuan per adult, 100 yuan per child under 12. Including roundtrip transport, snacks and beverages, detailed map of the hike and professional guide.

Leave: 8:30am at the Lido, outside Starbucks, 9am at the Capital paradise (front gate).

Come back: 4:30-5pm.

Weather

Saturday March 2	Overcast to clear Max:12C.Min:-1C.	
Sunday March 3	Overcast to clear Max: 10C. Min:-2C.	
Monday March 4	Clear to cloudy Max:13C.Min:-1C.	
Tuesday March 5	Clear Max: 10C. Min: 0C.	
Wednesday March 6	Clear Max: 12C.Min: 0C.	
Thursday March 7	Clear to cloudy Max: 9C. Min: 0C.	
Friday March 8	Overcast to clear Max: 11C.Min: 1C.	

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902520. By Priscilla / Lydia

Exhibitions

**Three Female Artists' Exhibition**

More than 30 oils and watercolors combining eastern and western painting skills.

Where : Qin Gallery, 38A Fancaodi North Street, Chaoyang District.

When: March 1-8.

Tel: 65074062 or 13601038025.

Email : qingallery@yahoo.com



Dongcheng District, bus 60 to Nanchizi, or bus 1, 4, 57 to Tian'anmen then walk.

When: March 9-15, 9am-5pm.

Admission: free.

Tel: 65289103.

Spring Oil Paintings

An exhibition to welcome the new Spring.

Where: 3rd floor of East Gallery, Deshengmen Watchtower, North Second Ring Road, Xicheng District.

When: Mar 6-Mar 26, 9am-5pm.

Admission: 2 yuan.

Tel: 82014962.

Pang Yuan's Painting - Songs of Spring

The theme of the exhibition is spring and flowers. Different kinds of flowers in Pang's paintings tell the poetic world in the artist's eyes.

Where: Melodic Gallery, 14 Jianguomenwai Dajie, opposite Friendship Store, Chaoyang District.

When: till the end of March, 9am-5pm.

Tel: 65158123.

**Romantic Times In Hutongs**

Chinese paintings exhibition. Works featuring Beijing's hutongs by Bian Guoqiang. White sunshine, dry twigs and old red gates all show the old Beijing scene.

Where: Huangshicheng Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie,

Music

**Concerto**

China Philharmonic Orchestra - Johannes Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor; Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major. Pianist: Gerhard Oppitz, Conductor: Lan Shui.

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie.

When: March 10, 7:30pm.

Admission: 50-300 yuan.

Tel: 65001188 ext. 5682.

Stairway to Music 2002 - Lecture Series

Bian Zushan introduces Swan Lake and Ballet music.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: March 2, 2pm.

Admission: 10 yuan.

Tel: 65598285.

Beijing Symphony Orchestra

Program - Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D, first movement, Mozart: Symphony No. 41 in C, First movement; Mendelssohn: Over-

ture Die Fingals-Hohle; Schubert: Symphony No. 8 in B minor, First movement. Conductor: Wang Enti.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: March 3, 2pm.

Admission: 10-60 yuan.

Tel: 65598285.

Chinese Classical Music Concert

Traditional music quartet Lin Yue Ran Ran. Erhu: Lin Gan; Yangqin: Shi Yue; Pipa: Luan Yue; Zheng: Fan Ran.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan park.

When: March 3, 7:30pm.

Admission: 30-200 yuan, 280 VIP.

Tel: 65598285.

Piano Concert

By Tai Yang, Lin Haiwen, Zheng Ruiyu. **Where:** National Library Concert hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District.

When: March 9, 2:30pm.

Admission: 10-30 yuan.

Tel: 88545348.

Music at Bars

CMCB happy night, March 2, Mn record night, March 9, 9pm, Get Lucky Bar, 64299109. Funky & Techy, Club Vogue, March 1, 10pm, 64165316. Mitabe, band performance from Africa, Jam House, March 1, 9pm, 65063845. Jazz music, Green, March 1, 9pm, 65906688. Blues and pops from "Swing Fish" band, Durty Nellies Irish Pub, March 2, 9pm, 65022808. Band performance: Focus, Schiller's 3, March 2, 9pm. Underground Hip-Hop, Club Orange, buy one, get one free before midnight, 2am-2:05am, free tequila shots, 64157413.

grentang Drug Store.

When: March 3, 2pm-5pm.

Tel: 8462-2081/1350-103-5145. (Feng Cheng)

Email: chinese_cultureclub@hotmail.com.

Website: www.chinesecultureclub.org

Chinese Traditional Medicine Lectures

Chinese Medicine and Diabetes by leading Chinese experts at the guest hall of the Yanhuang Guoyi Hospital. Discussions and questions encouraged. English narration.

Where: Jianmen East Street, southeast of Tian'anmen Square, opposite the McDonalds, there are two lions before the entrance.

When: March 2, Sat. 10:30 am-12:00

Admission: 50 yuan.

Chinese Learning Program

Where: The Bridge School,

When: From March 4, 15 weeks, 180 hours total. Mon-Thur, 1-4pm.

Tel: 64682290.

Email: info@beidgeschoolchina.com

Movies

**The Guasha Treatment**

Directed by Zheng Xiaolong, starring Zhu Xu, Tony Leung. In English (90%) with some Chinese dialogue.

Based on the true story of a middle-class Chinese family that emigrates to the US. The husband's elderly father, who speaks no English, treats their young son with "Guasha" when he becomes ill. The bruises left by the treatment come to the attention of American hospital staff, who accuse the parents of abuse and take their son away. The American justice system takes control of the case and exaggerates every possible cultural misunderstanding.

Osnabrück European Media Art Festival

The screened films are some excellent ones in this Art Festival. Artists from all over the

world. The film scholar, director of this Festival Jochen Coldewey will give a lecture on the policy and support of the German films.

Where: Project Hall, Beijing Film Institute.

When: March 7-8, 6:30pm

French Movies

Les Quatre Cents Coups (The 400 Blows)

Directed by Francois Truffaut (1932-1984), starring Yvonne Claudie, Jean-Pierre Leaud, Claire Maurier, Albert Remy. 1959, 94 minutes.

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee House, The Loft

When: March 2, 7pm (Space for Imagination Coffee House), March 3, 3pm, (The Loft)

Tel: 62791280, 65065592, 65017501.

**The Green Cap**

Directed by Zhang Qihong, starring Wang Chi, Guo Jin, Han Shanxu. Adopted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*.

Where: China Children's Art Theater, 64 Dong'anmen Dajie, Dongcheng District.

When: Till March 25, 7:30pm.

Admission: 60 yuan.

Tel: 65121425.

Performance



Jewelry Shopping In Beijing

Jewelry shopping in Beijing is limited to a few reputable specialty stores. However, markets should not be overlooked, particularly Hong Qiao for its pearls.

Beijing Arts and Crafts Center

The Wangfujing Store is one of the best places in town to buy jade in all shapes and sizes. Also a selection of jewelry is on offer.

Add: 200 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District.

Tel: 65238747.

Sports

Beijing Hash House Harriers-The Drinking Club with a Running Problem

Mexican Wave, 150 meters north of Guiyou Mansion.

When: March 3, 2:30pm.

Tel: 65063961.

International School of Beijing (ISB).

When: March 3, 5-7pm.

Email: Beijing_volleyball@hotmail.com

2002 IRB World Sevens Series Beijing Rugby Sevens

IRB World Sevens Series has a three-year history. It is the first time a leg of the series will be held in Beijing.

Participating teams include Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, England, Fiji, Hong Kong China, Japan, Korea, France, New Zealand, Samoa, South Africa & USA.

When: March 16-17.

Tel: 65672485 (Catherine Finch), 64153019 (David)

Email: Catherin@eastnet.com.cn, davis@orienz.com

**Cricket**

The activity is moved to every Sunday from March 3.

Where: Western Academy Beijing, go directly there or meet at the Sheraton Hotel (Great Wall Hotel) in the lobby to share taxis to the Academy.

When: March 3, 4pm.

Tel: 13671069342 (Ali Zein Kazmi).

Email: saz_kazmi@yahoo.com

Volleyball Match

Beijing Volleyball Team

Where: Wooden Floor Gym,



Cultural Tour



Street tower built with rejected materials originally intended for the Summer Palace

Spring is coming! You must have felt the change in the air. Not a big change, maybe, but definitely a change. So put that down coat back in mothballs for another year, dust off your hiking boots and head for the hills.

Incense road leads to spring

By Zhao Shiyu

The Goddess Temple standing at the top of Miaofeng (Strange Peak) Mountain in the Western Hills is one of the most important Taoist temples in China. In ancient times, worshippers of diverse social status made their way here along the "incense road", as they were called by historians, to make offerings of incense. Along the way some wealthy worshipers built Chapeng, or shelters, small tea "sheds" where the faithful could take a break during their thirty or so kilometer hike up the mountain, on their way to the temple.

One of these incense roads runs through a village at the eastern foot of Miaofeng Mountain in Mentougou district. Most of the villagers are engaged in the production of glazed tiles, so the village is called Liuliqu (琉璃渠 Colored Glaze Canal). You can find signs of spring in a tour to the village in late February or early March. Here you can feel not only the gentle breeze of spring, but also find some not so well know historical relics.

The Street Tower

The Street Tower, which spans the main street of Liuliqu, is a magnificent stone archway. It houses statues of various gods to which worshippers offer sacrifices. There are many such street towers in Mentougou District, a result of the area's long history of glazed tile production.

The records of the village tell that all the glazed tiles used in the construction of imperial buildings of the Ming and Qing dynasties were produced in this village. The glazed tiles had to undergo stringent inspection before they could be qualified for use in imperial buildings. About one third were rejected as substandard products and returned to the village.

These rejected tiles were actually of the highest quality, however officials in charge of inspecting building material were always keen to demonstrate their effectiveness and sincerity, and rejecting a large percentage of those building products was seen as a good way of doing so. More to the point, the glazed tile suppliers had to pay substantial bribes to these officials to ensure their products passed muster.

Unwilling to see those rejected tiles going to waste, the villagers used them in the construction of street towers around the village. Most of these towers are still standing today, while some of have been rebuilt by the local government.

The street tower at Liuliqu was built in 1757, right after the construction of the Summer Palace. Three gods, who were believed to have the ability to grant success in the imperial examinations, were housed in the tower. It is not possible to climb up the ten-meter tower, because the stairs were destroyed after its construction. The color of the glazed tiles remains as bright as ever, after nearly 250 years.

The large quadrangle

Walk along the main street of the village after leaving the street tower and turn right into the second alley after some eighty meters. At number 59 Liuliqu Houjie you will find an elegant courtyard house featuring the typical architectural style of the Qing Dynasty. Pushing the door open you will see a screen wall with four glazed mosaic plaques. The plaques are relics of a temple that once stood in the northwest of the village. The temple is long gone. Nothing remains today but two ancient cypress trees. The owner of the quadrangle took the plaques home and stuck them in his wall to prevent them from being stolen.



Photos by Zhao Shiyu

The residents here are all warm hearted, and one or more of them will happily show you around the courtyard. Some residents moved into town some years ago, and their rooms are now vacant. If you wish you can even lease one and spend some time living in the clean mountain air. The rest of the courtyard is on the other side of the western wall, however the passage between the two parts is blocked off. If you want to see the other, more ornate section, you will have to find another passage.

Leave the courtyard and walk northward for some thirty meters to an arch on your left. The wall standing between the door of the courtyard and the arch is constructed with pieces of broken glazed works. You will find very intricate works in it. The pebble path behind the arch will lead you to the other part of the quadrangle. The old lady who owns this part has not allowed any changes to be made to her residence, so you can find some interesting things here. For instance, the ancient woodwork of the windows and the intricate brick carvings under the eaves are around 250 years old. The old lady will not come out to meet you, but her small dog will bark its welcome!

The Tea Break Shed

It is actually not a shed, but a large courtyard. When you return to the branch alley, walk on northward. After crossing a wide street with two old cypresses on the corner, go on to another alley on the opposite side. At the end of the alley turn left, you will see a small path guarded by two stone columns decorated with modern flaring glazed works. Take this path, walk for another thirty meters, and you will see a large yard with red walls in front.

The yard seems to be floating high in the air. A wide dirt road, the ancient Incense Road, runs past the south wall of the courtyard

and loses itself in the high mountains ahead. Four glazed plaques in the walls at the main entrance to the courtyard catch your eyes. The Chinese characters on the plaques read Everlasting Spring. The Zhao family who now inhabit the courtyard are descendants of the most famous glazed tile manufacturers in China.

The family supplied glazed tiles for the construction of the Summer Palace and the Forbidden City. Their former residence is in Liulichang in Xuanwu District.

In old Beijing the big complexes of the Zhao's and the black smoke emitted from their factory always annoyed the Emperor Qianlong. However, the family had made great contributions to the imperial family, so he was reluctant to drive them out. However when the Summer Palace was built, the black column of smoke became a worry in the heart of the emperor. It appeared to him to resemble a black monster hovering over the Forbidden City. Furthermore lead, the major content of the emission of the glazed products factory, caused infertility. Though the emperor had many children, he eventually forced the family to move to where they live today.

The family's former residence is located in the first glazed product factory you met after the entrance to the village. If you are interested, you can pay a visit to it on your way back.

The courtyard is divided into two parts. The western section once served officials and the wealthy, while the eastern section was for the poor. In the old days, shelters were pitched in the eastern courtyard. The poor were supplied with free food and tea when they took a break en route. On the western side, magnificent rooms were built for the wealthy or the officials. A statue of Guanyin, the goddess of mercy also stood in the center complex of the courtyard.

As well as the above mentioned attractions, you can also find a Temple of the God of War in the village. The old temple stands some two hundred meters from the street tower on the southern shoulder of the main street. It is not well preserved, but the glazed works still shine in the sun as new. Part of the rear wall of the temple has collapsed, and it is possible to get inside through the gap. The darkness of the halls inside lends the temple a mysterious air.

Getting there:

Subway to Pingguoyuan, then bus 336 to Chengzi (城子). The village lies behind an arch, which is standing in the south of a decorative archway.



Main entrance of the Tea Break Shed; the material used for the wooden door was supplied by the Tanzhe Temple; the ancestor of the Zhaos donated glazed products to the temple every year for rettriming the halls of the temple during the Qing Dynasty



Glazed mosaic plaques on the western screen wall before the main entrance of the Tea Break Shed. The characters read Everlasting Spring



The walls of the village are constructed with pieces of broken glazed tiles



Couplets carved on the door planks of a courtyard at the old quadrangle; this one reads Hard Working Spirit Should be Handed Down Forever



Great Wall Buffs

By Rocketman

In order to expand its trade in the Far East, Great Britain set up its liaison office in China in 1795. Some of the office staff wrote in great detail about the things they witnessed in old China carrying out research on China's social, economic and military affairs, as well as the historical relics. All this material was later included in a book called The Lion and The

The Lion and The Dragon

Dragon, published in Europe. Among these stories are some chapters devoted to the Great Wall, which also include three pictures. The first of these is a sketch showing a detail of the inner structure of a two-story watchtower at the Gubeikou Great Wall in Beijing. This watchtower still stands today. The second is a sketch showing a typical structure of the wall. The articles and two sketches

are by an Englishman Lieutenant Parish. His friend, the artist William Alexander who spent two years in Beijing as draughtsman for the British Embassy was very interested in the wonders of the orient. He painted several watercolors of the Great Wall, including the third picture shown below, with the aid of Parish's descriptions and sketches.

Gubeikou Great Wall is lo-

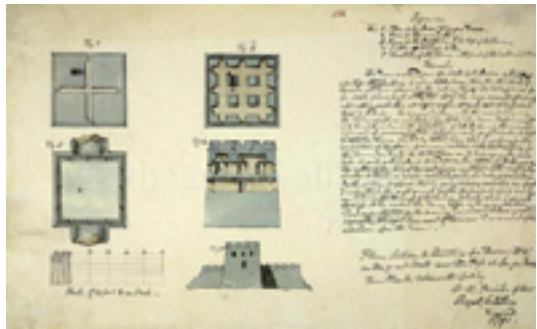
cated in the southeast of Gubeikou Village, Miyun County. It was first constructed in the Qi Dynasty (479-502). An important pass was built here in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Owing to its location at the mountain named Wohu (Sleeping Tiger), it was first called Hubeikou. During the early Ming Dynasty, a city was established at the pass. Called Gubeikou, the city was two kilometers in pe-

rimeter and had gates in the eastern, southern and northern walls. The city remains well preserved today.

Getting there:

Bus from Dongzhimen long distance bus station to Miyun, then taxi to Gubeikou (half an hour, 30 yuan).

For more information visit: <http://www.thegreatwall.com.cn>



From the comparison between the modern picture of the Gubeikou Great Wall and the watercolor works of William Alexander one can see that most important details of the Great Wall had been reproduced